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Living with Wildfire in West Vail, Eagle County, Colorado: 2022 Data Report

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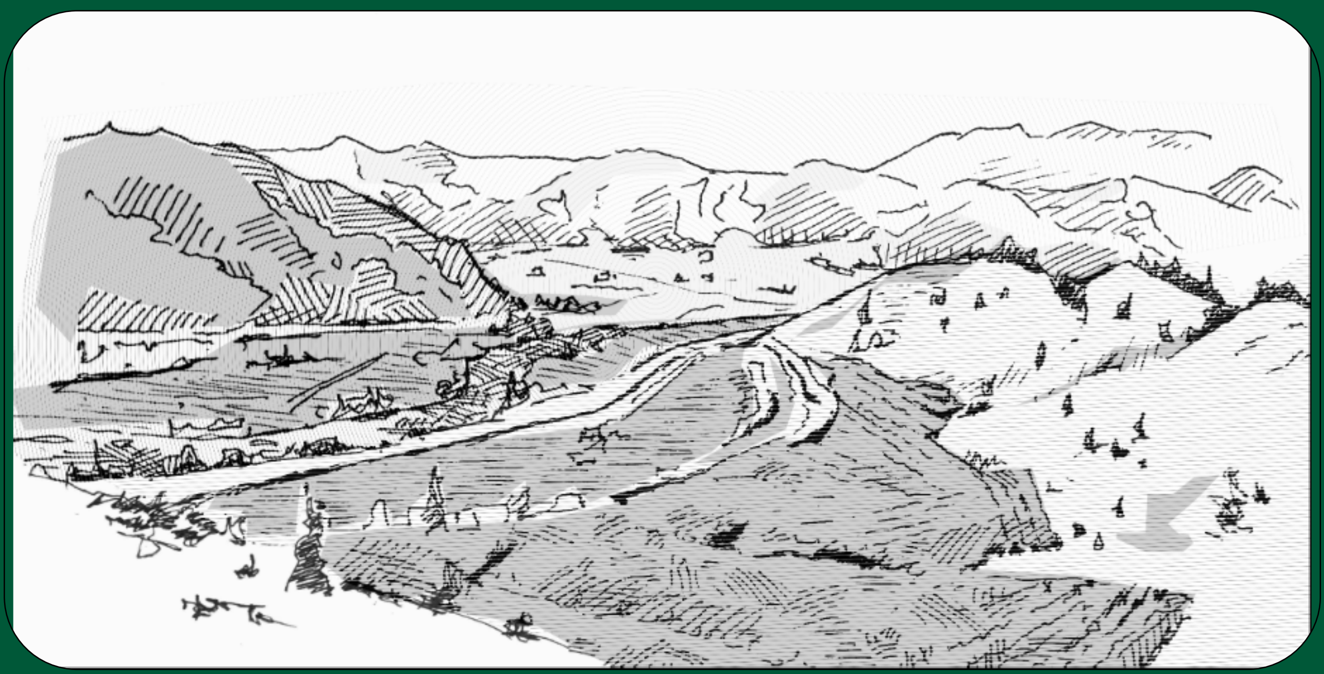

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Abstract: Community wildfire readiness includes homeowner wildfire risk mitigation and wildfire evacuation preparedness. This report presents results from a household survey distributed to 725 households in West Vail, Colorado in 2022. Results indicate that West Vail survey respondents may not fully understand the risk of damage or property loss due to a wildfire and may benefit from further information about wildfire risk contributors—in general and specific to their property—as well as evacuation preparedness information. Among common sources of wildfire risk information, respondents rated Vail Fire and Emergency Services as the most useful source. Most residents support wildfire risk reduction strategies on nearby public lands.

Keywords: WiRē (wildfire research), co–produced research, risk assessment, survey data, social science, community, resident, wildfire risk, preparedness, mitigation, wildland-urban interface (WUI)

Cover: Courtesy artwork by Cody Evers, Portland State University, 2022.

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Executive Summary

In Brief

Survey respondents in the West Vail study area have little experience with wildfire and perceive relatively low risk of their home being damaged or destroyed by a wildfire. As a result, they may benefit from information about wildfire risk contributors—in general and specific to their property—as well as evacuation preparedness information. Among common sources of wildfire risk information, respondents rated Vail Fire and Emergency Services (Vail Fire) as the most useful source for this information. At the community level, residents indicated support for community wildfire risk reduction strategies.

Background, Goals, and Methods

In 2022, the Wildfire Research (WiRē) Center partnered with Vail Fire to implement a household survey about wildfire risk mitigation and preparedness among residents in the western part of the mountainous ski town of Vail, Colorado. Prior to the household survey, Vail Fire conducted rapid wildfire risk assessments of all parcels in West Vail with a risk assessment tool (Evaluation Process | Vail, CO) developed by Vail Fire. For this project, Vail Fire and WiRē implemented online and mail follow-up household surveys in a West Vail study area. This report describes household survey results, including respondents' self-assessment of their home's wildfire risk as well as a range of social data related to how residents live with the risk of wildfire.

Results

Below are a few key results from each section of the report.

Demographics and home characteristics—

- Respondents tended to be high-income (82% over $100,000 per year), highly educated (92% with college degree or higher), and 60 years of age on average.
- Most respondents identified their Vail home as a secondary residence. Occupancy was lowest in the shoulder seasons [e.g., lowest after ski season before summer (i.e., April, May, and June) and after summer before ski season (i.e., October and November)].
- Three percent of respondents were renters.
- Sixty-nine percent of respondents were either somewhat or not at all aware of their home's wildfire risk at time of home purchase or moving into their home (refer to fig. 2).

Wildfire experience and risk perceptions—

- Respondents reported little direct experience with wildfire (refer to figs. 3–4).
- Sixty-two percent of respondents agree that their property is at risk of wildfire and 29 percent think it very or extremely likely their home would be destroyed if there was a fire on their property (refer to fig. 5 and fig. 9 respectively).

- Most respondents recognized that vegetation on or near their property contributed to their property's wildfire risk, and a slightly smaller majority recognized that the physical characteristics of their home also contributed (refer to fig. 11).
- Almost all respondents took responsibility for—and saw the efficacy of—property-level mitigation (refer to fig. 14).

Support for community risk reduction strategies—

- Respondents strongly supported fuels treatments, including removal of vegetation along roadways for safer evacuation (78%), removing trees and other vegetation on public lands (73%), managing a naturally ignited fire on public lands (72%), burning piles of vegetation on public lands (70%), removing trees and reducing other vegetation on Homeowners Association property (62%), and conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire professionals on public lands (62%; refer to fig. 15).
- Respondents strongly supported wildfire-related policies and regulations, including adopting building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas (79%), growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development (75%), and development standards that require vegetation management (70%; refer to fig. 16).
- Fewer respondents supported building a new road to provide an emergency evacuation route (51%) or temporarily shutting off the power grid on extreme fire risk days (45%; refer to fig. 16).

Mitigation and preparedness—

- Forty-five percent of respondents reported having an evacuation plan for people in their household (refer to fig. 17).
- Only 17 percent of respondents had signed up for Vail Community Connect and 26 percent for emergency notifications (refer to fig. 19).
- Most respondents wanted more information about evacuation preparedness activities related to evacuation notifications and routes, discussing evacuation with neighbors, and creating an evacuation checklist (refer to fig. 19).
- Many respondents have completed some mitigation activities, including regularly mowing and raking around the residence (80%), regularly clearing roof and gutters (70%), and reducing vegetation (63%). A smaller number of respondents reported hardening their homes (45%) or meeting with a wildfire professional to evaluate their home's risk (25%; refer to fig. 21).
- Top barriers to mitigation identified by respondents related to financial expense (36%), not knowing how to reduce risk on the property (34%), and time to do the work (31%). (refer to figs. 22–25).
- Top incentives that would encourage respondents to mitigate included a report describing their property's risk factors would help them to mitigate (73%), a one-on-one property visit from a wildfire risk expert (53%), or financial assistance (53%; refer to figs. 26-28).

Communication about wildfire risk—

- Vail Fire was the most received source of wildfire information by respondents, and they were also the source most highly rated as useful (refer to fig. 32)
- Respondents preferred to receive information via e-newsletter, mailed newsletter, or conversations with local wildfire specialists (refer to fig. 33).
- Thirty percent of respondents were aware of paying a higher insurance premium due to wildfire risk, and twenty-four percent reported having received information about wildfire risk from their insurance company (refer to fig. 31).

What Is WiRē?

The Wildfire Research (WiRē[1]) Center works with wildfire practitioners seeking to create communities that are adapted to wildfire through an evidenced-based approach. Historically, immediate threats and wildfire suppression have garnered much attention and resources. While these efforts remain critical, getting in front of the problem by promoting pathways to fire adaptation is of paramount importance. Fire adaptation is about living with wildfire. It's about creating safe and resilient communities that mitigate wildfire risk on their property before a fire, as well as supporting an effective response when fires threaten a community. It is also about allowing fire, as an important ecological process, on the landscape when it is safe and beneficial to do so.

Over the last decade, a team of researchers and practitioners, referred to as the WiRē Team, has developed and successfully implemented a systematic data collection and integration approach (the WiRē Approach) that informs local wildfire risk education efforts and allows for monitoring of community adaptation over time.

The mission of the WiRē Center is to support evidence-based community wildfire education and mitigation efforts so that communities can live with wildfire. Specifically, the WiRē Center provides personalized expertise and support to collect, interpret, and use paired parcel-level wildfire risk and social data. The WiRē Approach enables partners to effectively allocate resources and engage with residents in the study area. Leveraging lessons learned across projects, the WiRē Center pursues scientific approaches to inform conversations and decisions about wildfire adaptation.

Coproduction Approach

For more than a decade, WiRē has worked with local wildfire practitioner partners across the United States to collect local-scale data relevant to wildfire risk mitigation and preparedness efforts. WiRē aims to empower the voice of wildfire practitioner partners. These partners both participate in the data collection process and share the results with their communities. Experience has demonstrated that sharing results with the community provides a common platform for constructive discussion about adapting to wildfire. During these discussions, wildfire practitioner partners can draw from data, collected in partnership with WiRē, that reflect the entire community, not just a vocal few. To support these discussions and other partner goals, the WiRē Center helps partners collect local data, then summarizes those data and provides wildfire practitioner partners with the tools to act on research results. The WiRē Center also works with some partners with a regional reach to expand work into new communities.

At a broader scale, the WiRē Center manages, compiles, and analyzes data collected across communities to provide insights across space and time with respect to wildfire risk on private land and the characteristics, knowledge, and experience of the people who live on those

1 Pronounced Wy-REE

properties. These data are an important contribution to the state of knowledge regarding private lands and wildfire risk.

Project Area: What Do the Community and Environment Look Like?

The area selected to survey (fig. 1) is located in the western portion of the Town of Vail, Colorado and includes portions of unincorporated Eagle County, which are serviced by Vail Fire and Emergency Services. The community is a destination resort community with a mix of single-family homes, duplex, and multi-family residences. Most of the homes in the study area were built since the mid-1980s with some areas of the study area being redeveloped into newer homes. Homes in the area are built in a mountain modern aesthetic with complex roof forms and building shapes and heavily landscaped lots. Many homes built before 2007 have wood shake roofs; however, many properties have begun to incorporate ignition resistant building materials into the design as renovations and redevelopment occur. Due to the constrained topography of the mountain valley lot sizes average one-quarter acre with most structures being situated within 30 feet of the nearest structure.

The community is situated in a mixed conifer and aspen forest type at an elevation of approximately 8,100 feet. Snow covers the ground approximately five months a year, and the area has a bi-modal wildfire season with peaks in late June and again in September and October. The area is prone to infrequent high severity wildfire. The community abuts the White River National Forest on all sides in a classic wildland-urban interface. Moderate insect and disease issues including mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle and sudden aspen decline have affected the native forest stands over the past 25 years leading to above average fuel loading. Private lots are generally heavily landscaped with a mix of native and adapted landscape tree and shrub species. The community prefers a full-looking landscaping with mature trees and native unmaintained grass cover.

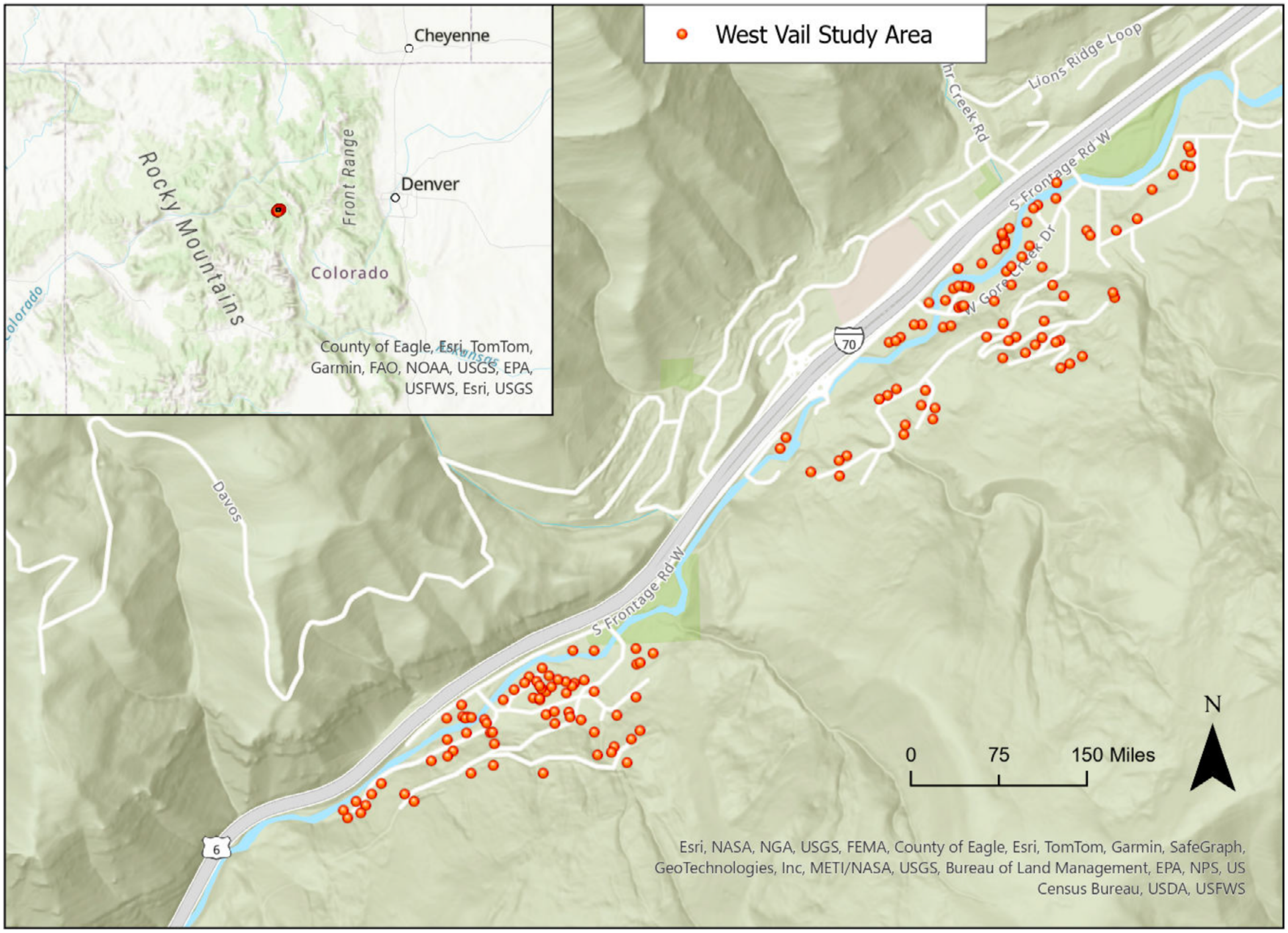

Figure 1—Map of residential parcels in the West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. study area. Inset shows the location of the study area in Colorado. Map image is the intellectual property of Esri and is used herein under license. Copyright © 2020 Esri and its licensors. All rights reserved.

WiRē Partner: Vail Fire and Emergency Services

Vail Fire and Emergency Services (Vail Fire) is a municipal fire department organized under the Town of Vail. The department has a staff of 33 operational firefighters, three administrative staff and a wildland division of 11 people. The department staffs three stations 24/7 and has a jurisdiction of 4.6 square miles. The department responds to approximately 2,000 calls annually and has a very active fire prevention and wildfire mitigation focus. The department implements a broad wildfire mitigation strategy including (1) outreach and education, (2) building and landscaping code enforcement, (3) landscape-scale fuels reduction projects, including mechanical fuels reduction and prescribed fire, (4) community-based cost share programs, and (5) direct community mitigation support.

Methods: What Did We Do?

Vail Fire conducted rapid wildfire risk assessments of all parcels in West Vail with a Vail Fire developed risk assessment tool (Evaluation Process | Vail, CO). Vail Fire worked with WiRē to develop and implement an online household survey to complement the Vail Fire rapid wildfire risk assessments. A follow-up mailed survey was implemented to boost the low response rate to the online survey. The project launched with the mailing of an initial letter in June 2022 to inform residents in the study area of the Vail Fire assessments and the upcoming Living with Wildfire in Vail in 2022 survey. Refer to Appendix A and Appendix B for correspondence materials for the online and paper household surveys, respectively.

Household Survey

The household survey was designed to collect a range of social data related to how residents in the study area live with the risk of wildfire. Most of the survey questions are standardized across WiRē projects. However, some questions were tailored to address the interests of Vail Fire. WiRē and Vail Fire worked collaboratively to develop the final version of the household survey questions.

With the goal of reaching renters and homeowners, Vail Fire distributed the online survey to West Vail residents using multiple methods. First, WiRē used county assessor data to develop a mailing list of 680 study area homeowners. Residents on the mailing list received a mailed letter with information about the Vail Fire rapid assessment and the household survey collection effort, including a QR code and link to the household survey (refer to Appendix A). Then, Vail Fire displayed sandwich boards throughout West Vail, hand-delivered postcards at multi-family dwellings, and placed door hangers on doors in multi-family dwellings that included the QR code for the survey. Lastly, Vail Fire sent a postcard with rapid assessment results and a QR code to the online survey to homeowners. Table 1 summarizes the timing of the various survey administration contacts.

Table 1—Timing of the household survey administered to residents in the West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. study area by Vail Fire and Emergency Services and the Wildfire Research (WiRē) to collect information related to wildfire risk.

Household Survey Administration Effort	Date
Initial letter with survey QR code	6/01/2022
Postcard reminder	6/22/2022
Placement of sandwich boards and door hangers	6/22/2022
Postcard reminder with rapid assessment results	7/15/2022
Household survey mailing	11/10/2022

Given the possibility that the sandwich boards recruited respondents from outside the study area, the online survey prompted respondents to verify their address from a drop-down list of addresses within the study area. Survey responses outside of the study area or with less than 50 percent of the survey complete were discarded. This online survey effort garnered 69 survey responses, including 65 from homeowners and four from the renter population. The response rate among homeowners was 9.5 percent, based on the 725 homeowners with mailing addresses in the study area. The research team could not calculate the response rate for the renter population, as there was no renter sample frame available. Despite brainstorming on approaches to developing potential sample frames for the renter population in West Vail, the team was not able to come up with a viable approach.

To supplement the online survey, Vail Fire mailed a household survey to homeowners who had not yet completed an online survey.[2] The survey packet contained a cover letter, a household survey, and a postage-paid and addressed return envelope (refer to Appendix B). Of the 680 homeowners who received a mailed survey, 86 returned the survey, for a 12.6 percent response rate. Combining online and household survey responses and removing duplicates, the research team received 155 completed surveys for an overall response rate of approximately 21 percent.[3] Results from the household survey can be found in Appendix C.

Social Dimensions of Wildfire Risk in West Vail: Results of the Household Survey

In this section, we present household survey results to highlight the social dimensions of wildfire in this unique study area (see Appendix C for household survey questions and responses).

Demographics and Home Characteristics

Survey respondents were more likely to identify as male (60%) and the average age of survey respondents was 60 years old. Almost all (92%) of survey respondents reported holding a bachelor's degree or higher, and 42 percent had an advanced degree (e.g., M.D., M.A., M.S., PhD). Over one-third (36%) of survey respondents were retired, 52 percent worked full-time, and 9 percent worked part-time. Most respondents (82%) reported yearly incomes of $100,000 or greater, 8 percent reported $75,000 to $99,999, 7 percent reported $50,000 to $74,999, and 3 percent reported a yearly income less than $50,000.

Most respondents (62%) reported their home in West Vail as a secondary home, 35 percent reported owning their home and occupying it as a primary residence, and 3 percent of respondents were renters who had occupied their places for at least a year. About half (49%) of survey respondents occupy their homes in West Vail year-round. Reported occupancy was lowest in the shoulder seasons, especially April, May, October, and November (69%, 58%, 65%, and 66% of respondents, respectively). A small percentage of respondents (5%) never occupy their West Vail home.

The average year of construction of the homes in the study area was 1988, and the average year that survey respondents moved into their homes was 2007. As seen in figure 2, at the time of purchasing or beginning to rent their home in West Vail, 27 percent of survey respondents reported being very aware of the wildfire risk, 53 percent reported being somewhat aware, and 16 percent reported being unaware of wildfire risk.

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2 One survey was sent to each individual homeowner in the study area who had not responded to the survey already. If an individual owned multiple properties, they received only one survey with a prompt to select a specific property address.

3 The overall response rate was calculated based on the number of surveys received from both online and paper (n=155) divided by the total number of residential parcels in the study area (n=725) and is equal to 21 percent (155/725).

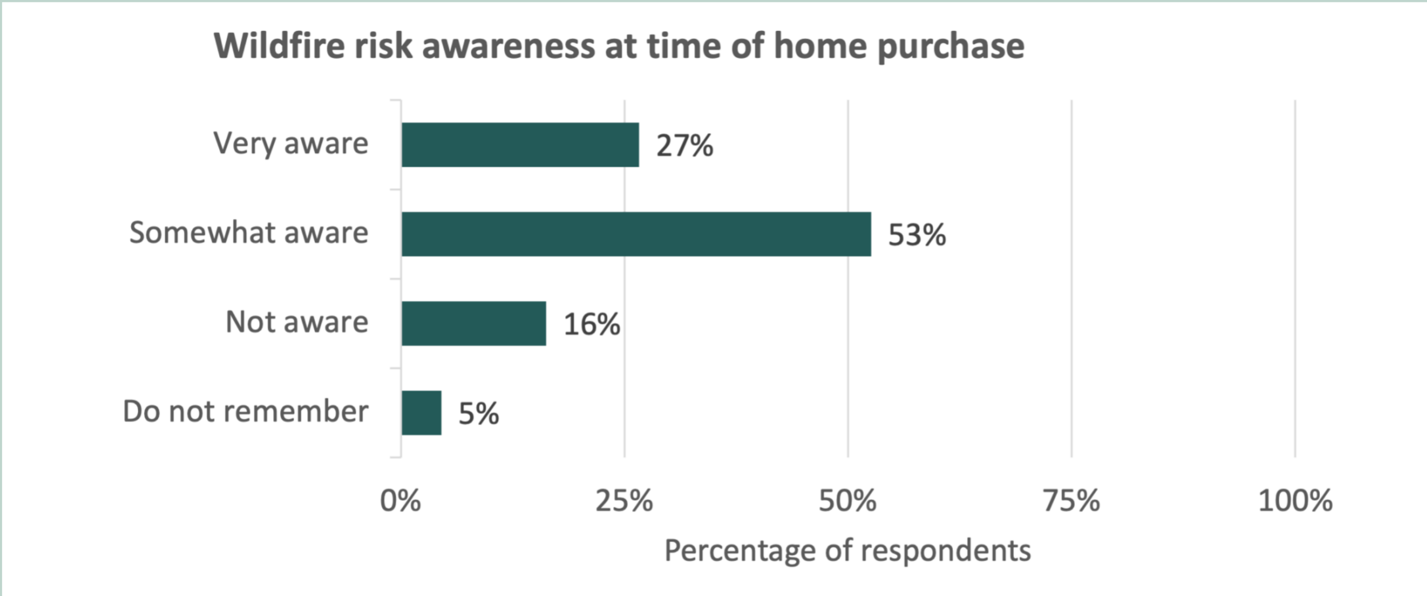


Figure 2—Respondents' awareness of wildfire risk, when they bought or began renting their home, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 154 respondents to this survey question.

Wildfire Experience and Risk Perceptions

This section describes respondents' experiences with wildfire, their risk perceptions, and their expectations about what would happen if there were to be a wildfire on their property.

Wildfire experience—

Almost none of the respondents to this survey reported experience with evacuating due to wildfire (1%), smoke damage (1%), fire damage (0%), or destruction of their residence due to wildfire (0%; refer to fig. 3). Only 22 percent of respondents reported that a wildfire had come within 10 miles of their property (refer to fig. 4).

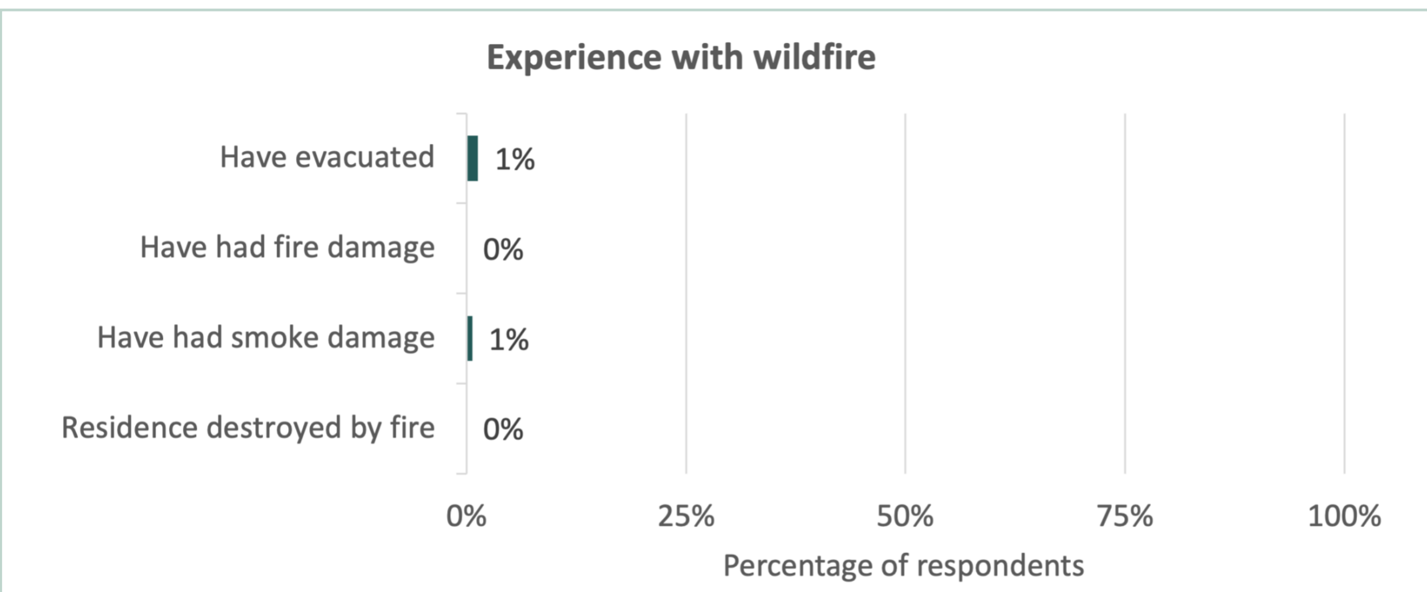


Figure 3—Respondent experience with various effects of wildfire, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 150–153 respondents to these survey questions.

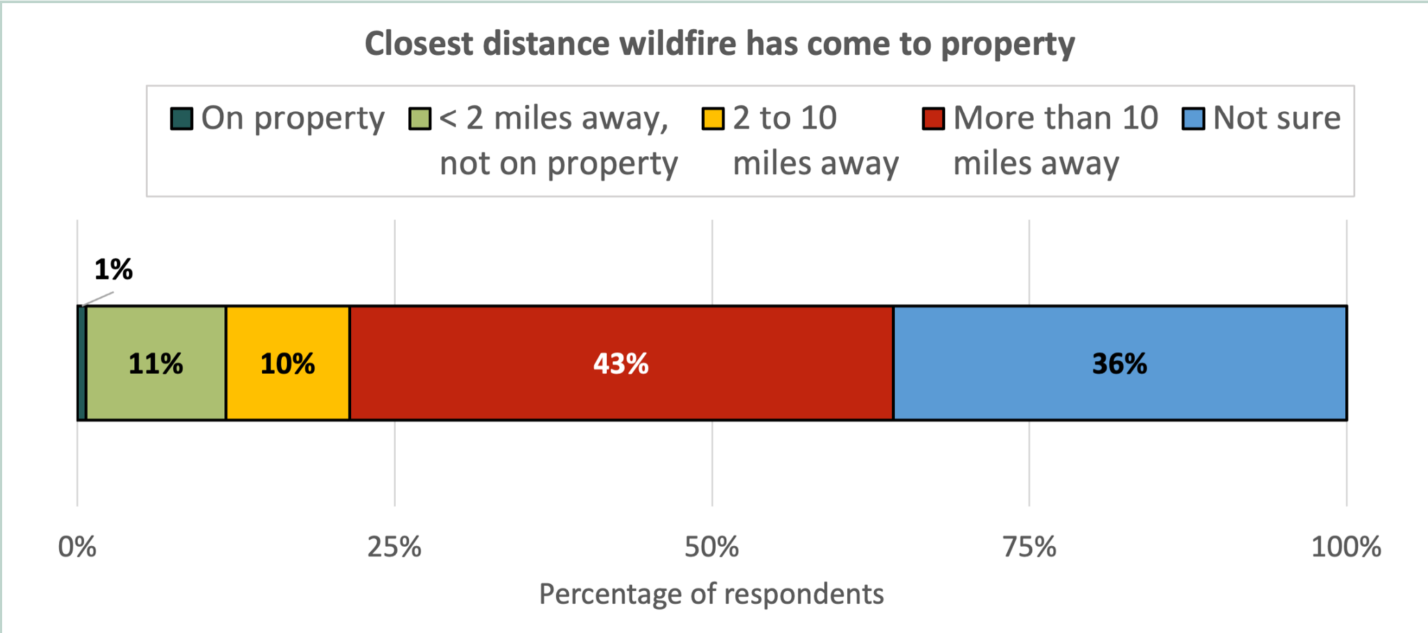


Figure 4—Respondent estimates of how close a wildfire has come to their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 154 respondents to this survey question.

Perceptions of risk—

Survey respondents were asked to consider the likelihood of the occurrence of a wildfire on their property and potential outcomes in that event. Sixty-two percent agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “My property is at risk of wildfire,” but none of the respondents reported planning to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires (refer to fig. 5). Indeed, only 15 percent of survey respondents thought it likely (greater than 50% chance) that there would be a wildfire on their property in the next year. That said, if there were a wildfire on their property in the next year, 54 percent thought it likely they would lose their home (refer to fig. 6).

Another dimension of wildfire risk is the threat posed to local water supply. About half of respondents (47%) agreed or strongly agreed that wildfires threaten their community water supply (refer to fig. 7).

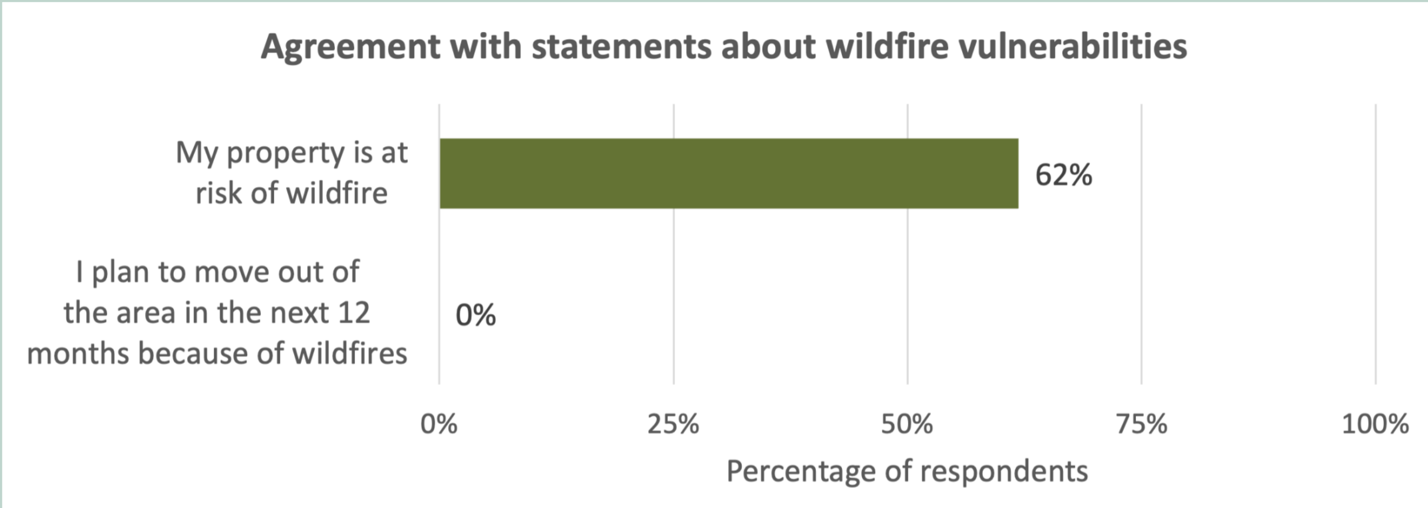


Figure 5—Agreement (“agree” or “strongly agree”) with statements about whether wildfire threatens the respondent’s property and water supply, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 151–152 respondents to each survey statement listed.

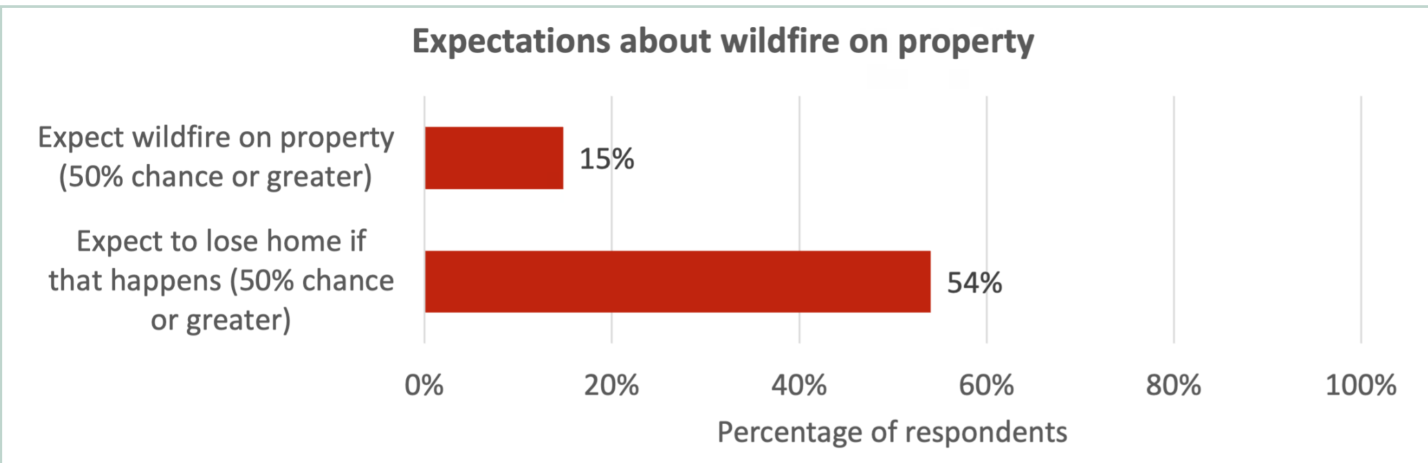


Figure 6— Estimate of the chances (50% chance or greater) of a wildfire on property in the next year, and chances (50% chance or greater) of losing home in that case, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 142 and 148 respondents to the two survey statements listed, respectively.

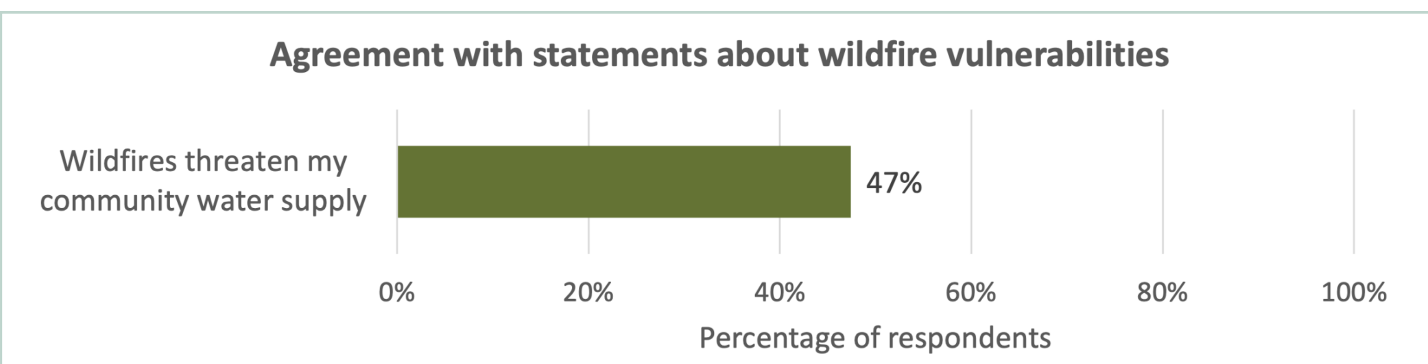


Figure 7—Agreement (“agree” or “strongly agree”) with statement about whether wildfire threatens the respondent’s property and water supply, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 152 respondents.

Respondents reported their expectations in the event of a wildfire on their property. Over a third (36%) of survey respondents thought it was very or extremely likely that the fire department would save their home, and 9 percent thought it likely they would put the fire out themselves (refer to fig. 8). More than half of respondents expected smoke damage to their homes (67%), some physical damage to their homes (65%), and that their trees and landscaping would burn (60%). Less than half of respondents expected their neighbors' homes to be damaged or destroyed (48%), loss of money due to the loss of a business or income (35%), or that their homes would be destroyed (29%; refer to fig. 9).

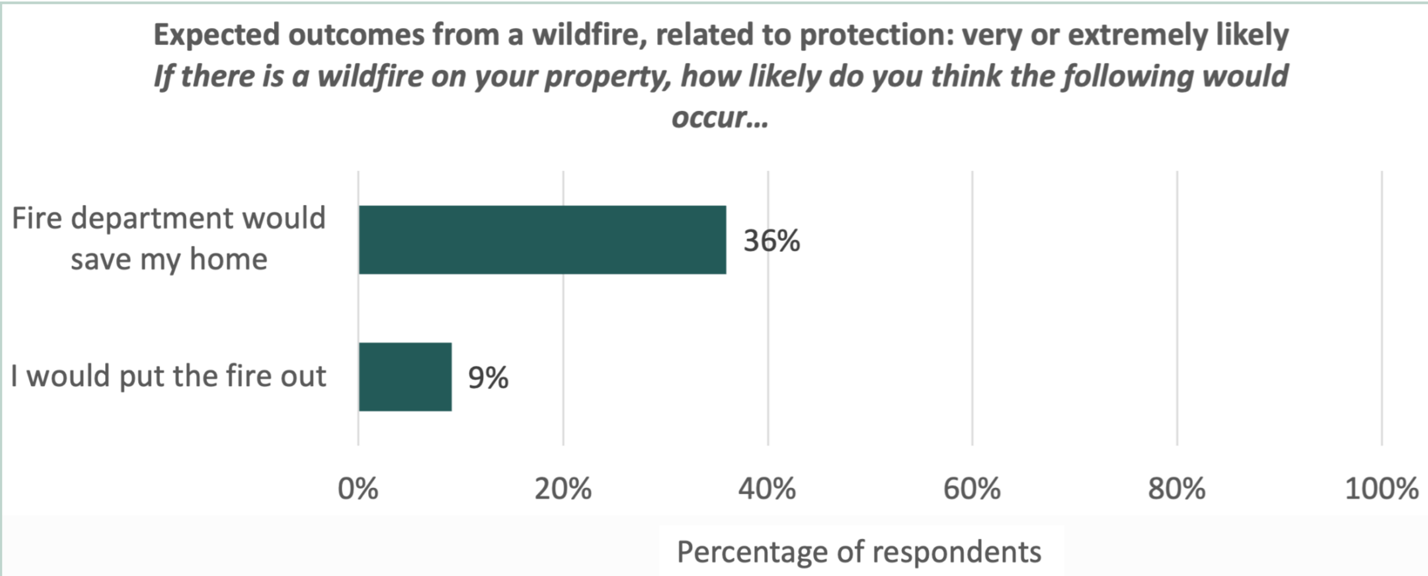


Figure 8—Percentage of respondents who thought the above source of protection to their home were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 153 and 154 respondents to each survey statement, respectively.

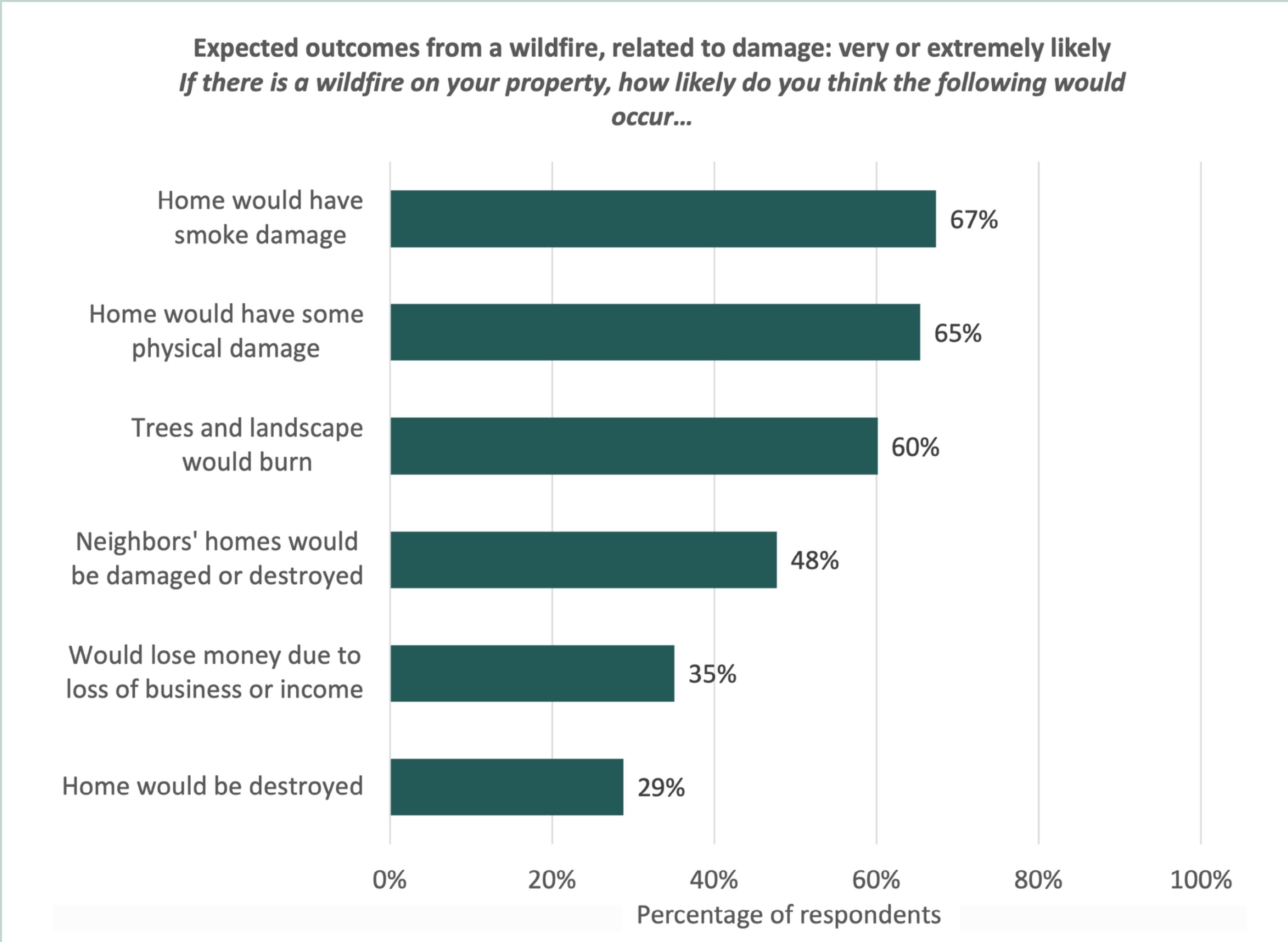


Figure 9—Percentage of respondents who thought the above forms of wildfire damage were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 153–154 respondents to each survey statement listed.

Survey respondents indicated some understanding of the physical mechanisms of home ignition. More than a third of respondents thought there was a high likelihood of nearby homes (38%), direct flames (36%), or embers (34%) igniting their home, in the event of a wildfire on their property (refer to fig. 10).

Most respondents recognized major sources of wildfire risk. Over two-thirds of respondents (77%) listed vegetation on neighbors' properties as a major contributor to the chances of a wildfire damaging their property in the next year, followed by vegetation on public or undeveloped lands (75%), or vegetation on the respondents' properties (71%). The factor respondents thought least likely to contribute to property damage was physical characteristics of their homes or other buildings on the property (refer to fig. 11).

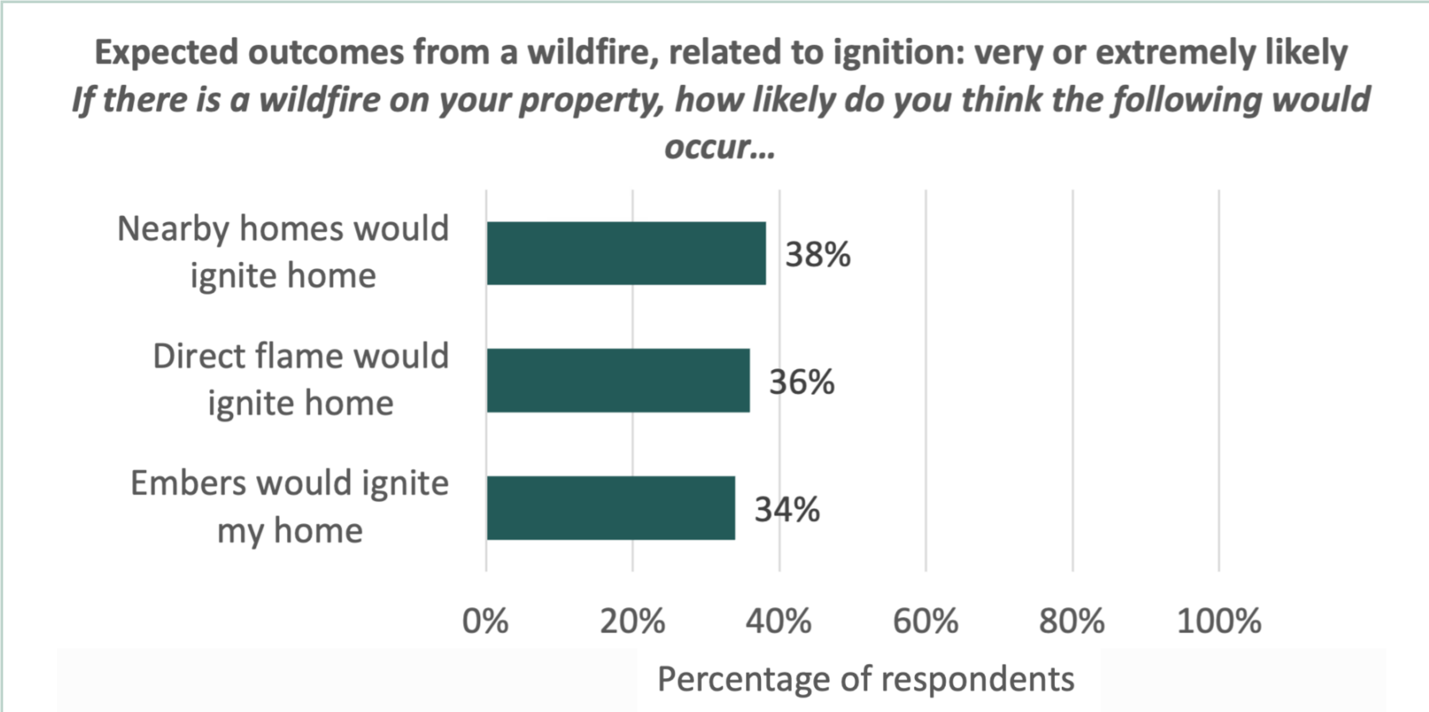


Figure 10—Percentage of respondents who thought the above sources of ignition were very or extremely likely, in the event of a wildfire on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 152–153 respondents to each survey statement listed.

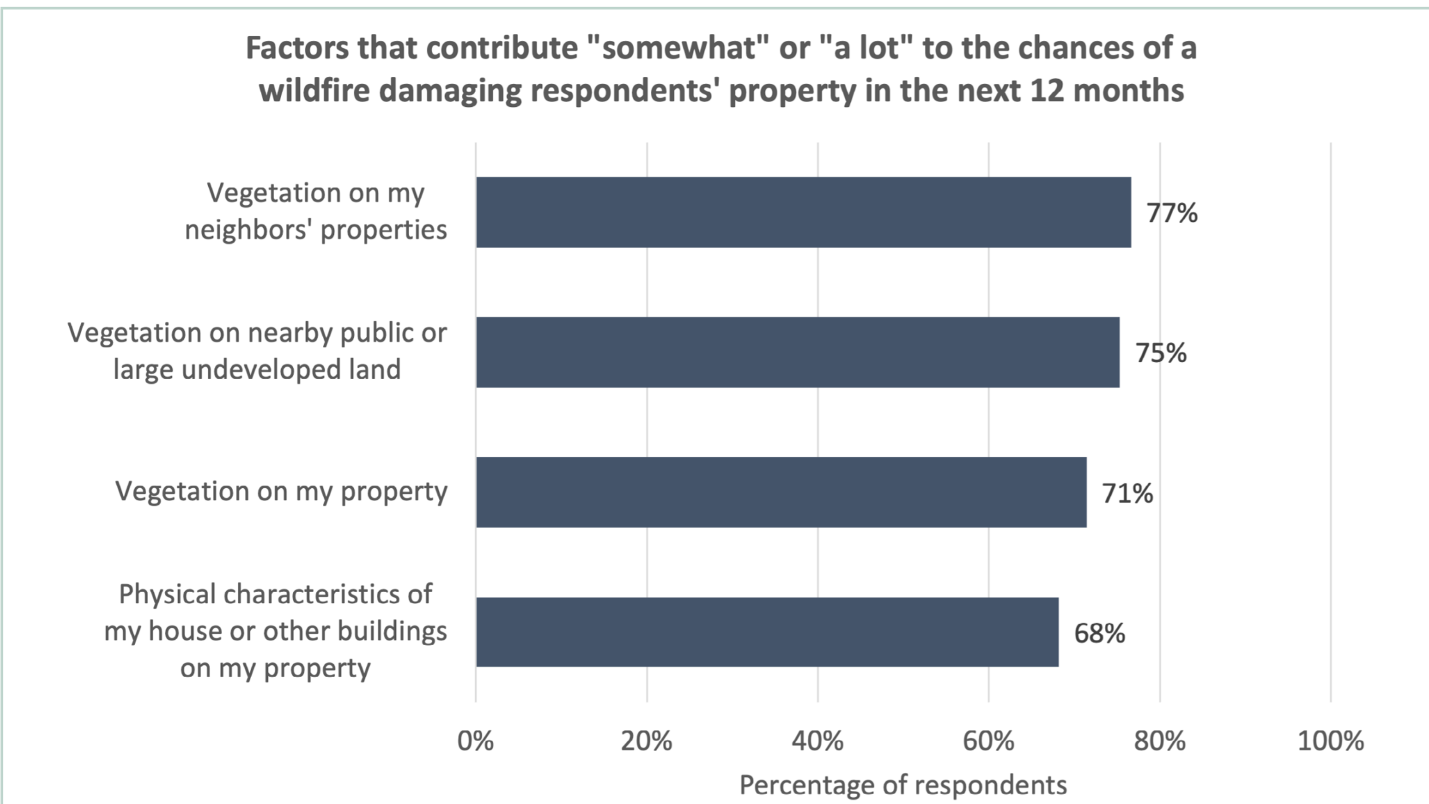


Figure 11—Percentage of respondents who thought the above factors contribute “a lot” to the chances of a wildfire damaging their property in the next 12 months, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 154 respondents to each survey statement listed.

Wildfire management beliefs—

Most survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that wildfires threatening human life (96%) and threatening homes (93%) should be put out. In addition, most agreed or strongly agreed that wildfires are a natural part of a healthy forest ecosystem (87%). Two-thirds (67%) of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that saving homes should be prioritized over saving forests during wildfire events (refer to fig. 12).

However, survey respondents were not confident in the technology and resources available to put out fires. Less than half of respondents (34%) agreed or strongly agreed that most wildfires can be controlled with proper technology. Even fewer (20%) agreed or strongly agreed that local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect homes from wildfire, and just 14% agreed or strongly agreed that local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep wildfires from spreading (refer to fig. 13).

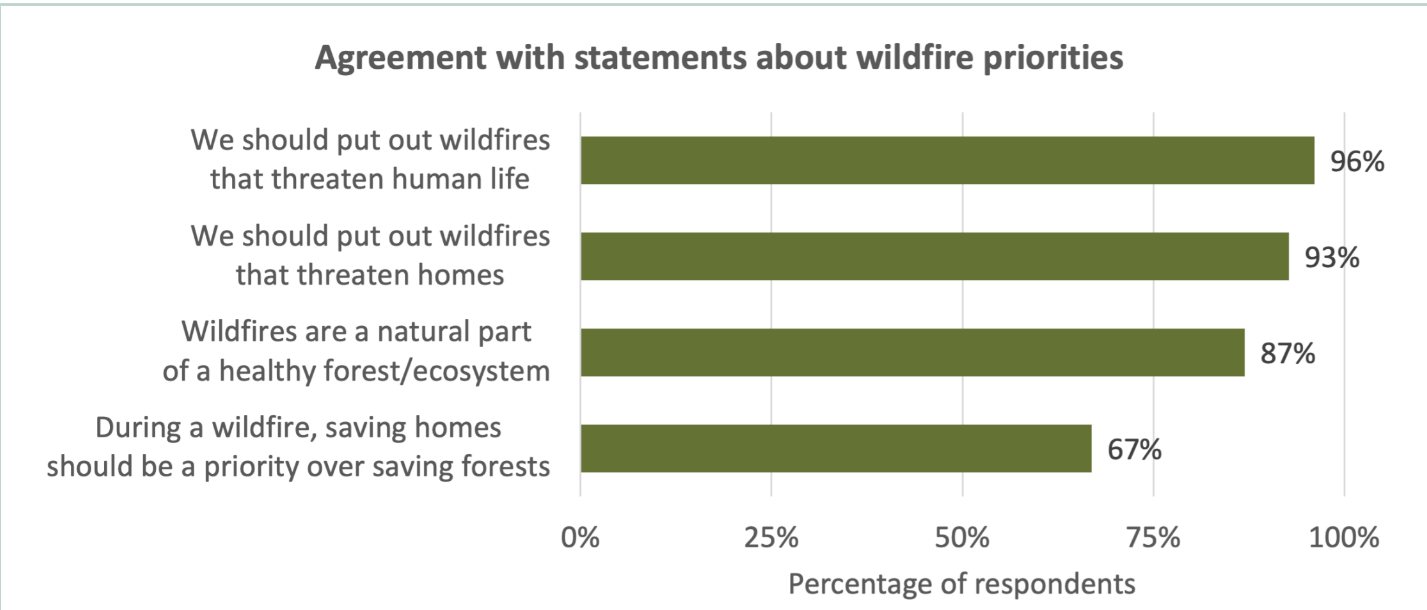


Figure 12—Agreement ("agree" or "strongly agree") with statements about priorities between human and natural resources during a wildfire, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 151–153 respondents to each survey statement listed.

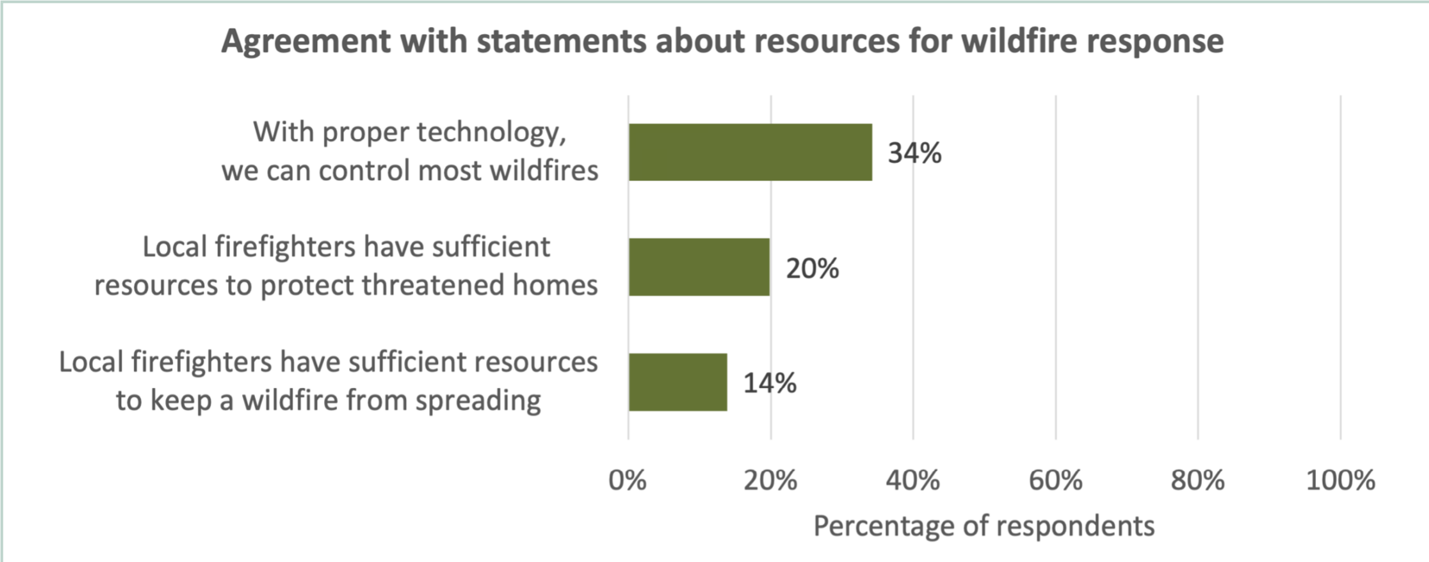


Figure 13—Agreement ("agree" or "strongly agree") with statements about available technology and resources to prevent wildfire effects, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 151–152 respondents to each survey statement listed.

Survey respondents were asked a variety of questions about statements related to wildfire risk. While almost half of respondents (45%) agreed or strongly agreed that development in fire prone areas increase the risk to their property, less than a quarter of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their actions to mitigate wildfire risk on their properties were rendered ineffective by heavy vegetation on neighboring properties (21%). Very few survey respondents reported that they live where they do for the trees and will not remove any from their properties (9%), firefighters should risk their lives protecting homes (9%), managing wildfire risk is the government's responsibility, not their own (7%), or that homeowner's actions are ineffective against wildfire (7%) (refer to fig. 14).

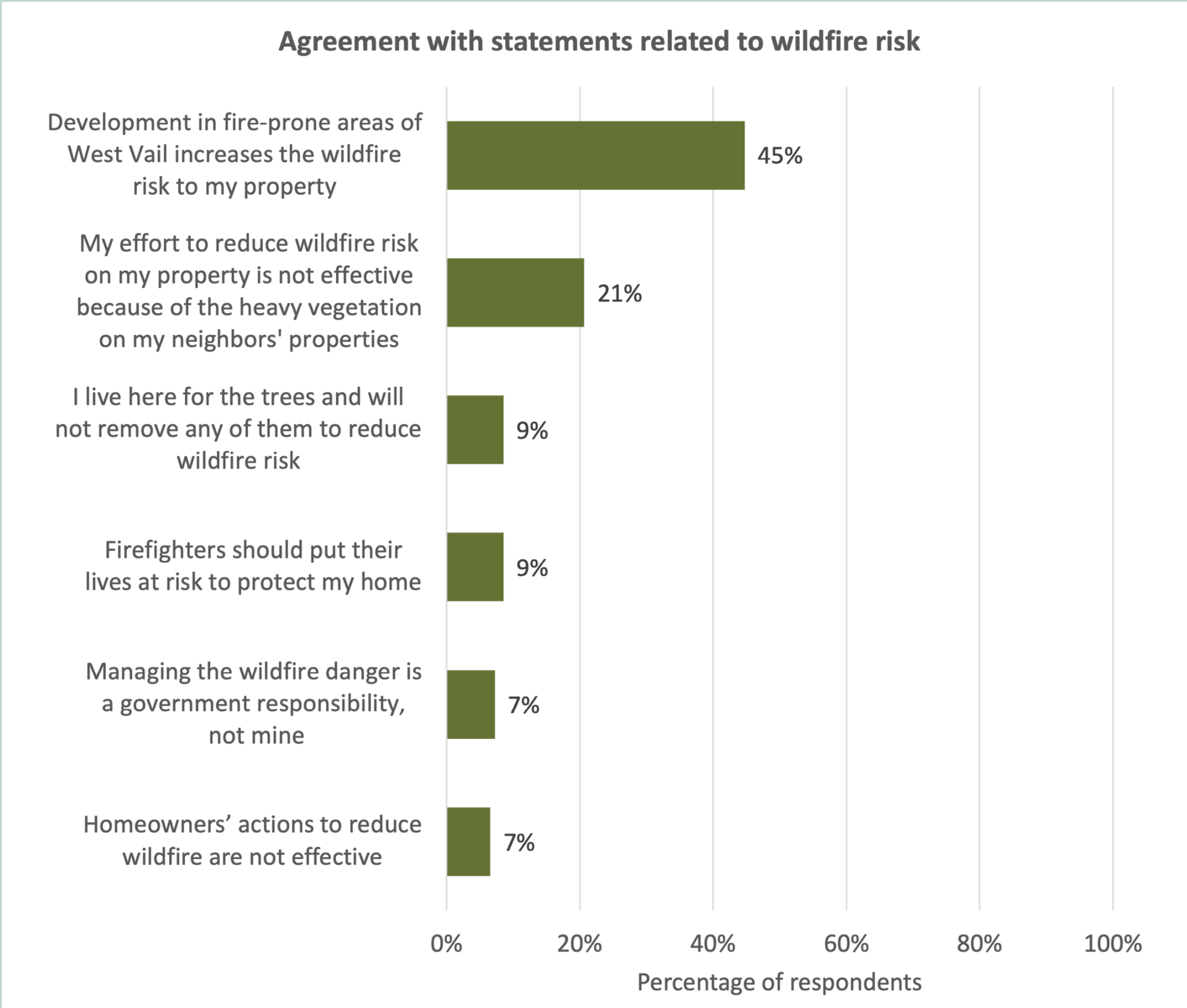


Figure 14—Agreement ("agree" or "strongly agree") with statements related to wildfire risk, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 150–152 respondents to each survey statement listed.

Support for Community Risk Reduction Strategies

Beyond the individual property, community-level wildfire risk mitigation is crucial to community wildfire readiness. Most survey respondents rated fuels treatments on nearby public lands as very or extremely acceptable. The highest level of acceptability was for the removal of vegetation along roadways for safer evacuation (78%), followed by public lands treatments that involve removing trees and other vegetation (73%), managing a naturally ignited fire (72%), and burning piles of vegetation (70%). Still acceptable among most respondents (62%) were: removing trees and reducing other vegetation on Homeowners Association property surrounding communities to slow the spread of wildfire such as fuel breaks, and conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire professionals (refer to fig. 15).

Survey respondents also indicated broad support for proposed wildfire regulations and practices. Most popular were adopting building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas (79%), growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development (75%), and development standards that require vegetation management (70%). Fewer respondents supported building a new road to provide an emergency evacuation route (51%) or temporarily shutting off the power grid on extreme fire risk days (45%; refer to fig. 16).

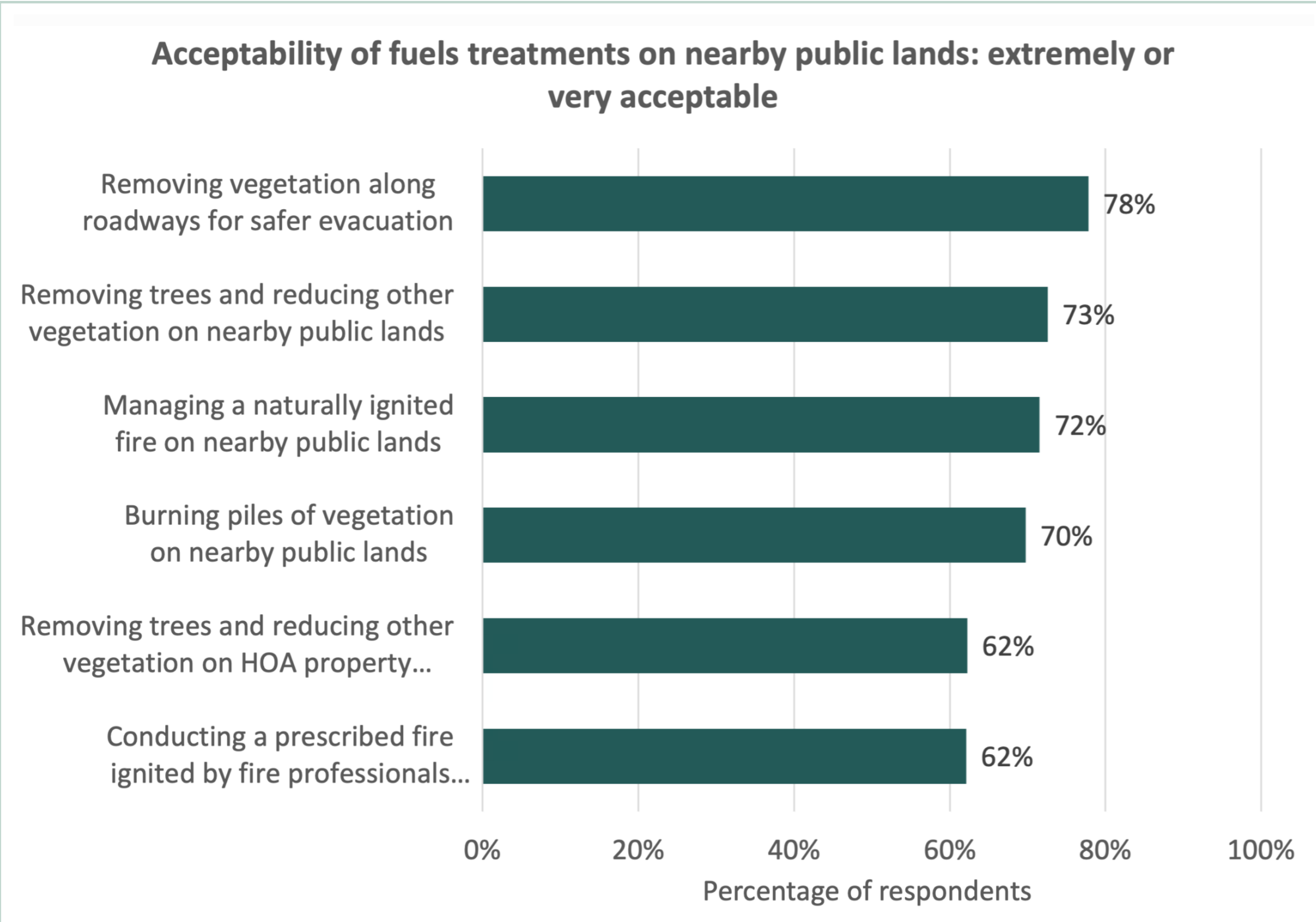


Figure 15—Percentage of respondents who found each of the above wildfire fuels management approaches very or extremely acceptable, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 151–153 respondents for each of the above statements. HOA refers to Homeowners Association.

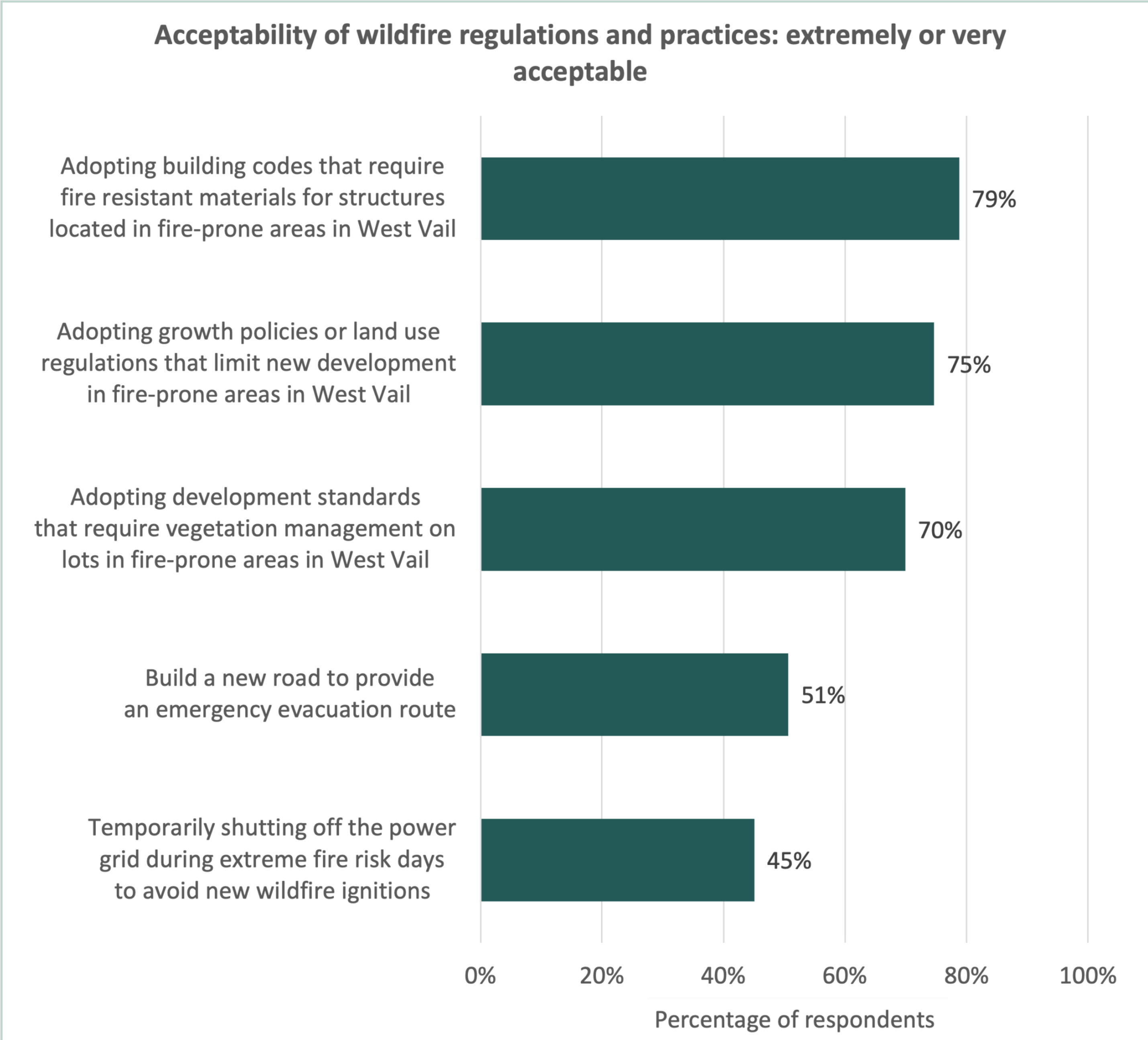


Figure 16—Percentage of respondents who found each of the above wildfire-related policies very or extremely acceptable, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 150–153 respondents for each of the above statements. HOA refers to Homeowners Association.

Mitigation and Preparedness

Evacuation planning—

Evacuation planning is an important step in wildfire preparedness. Less than half of respondents (45%) reported having evacuation plans for the people in their household (refer to fig. 17(a)), and of the survey respondents with pets, 36 percent had a plan for their pets (refer to fig. 17(b)). Despite their lack of planning, responses indicate that almost all respondents would be able to evacuate: 98 percent had a car they could use to evacuate and almost none (2%) reported that someone in their household had a disability that would make evacuation difficult (refer to fig. 18).

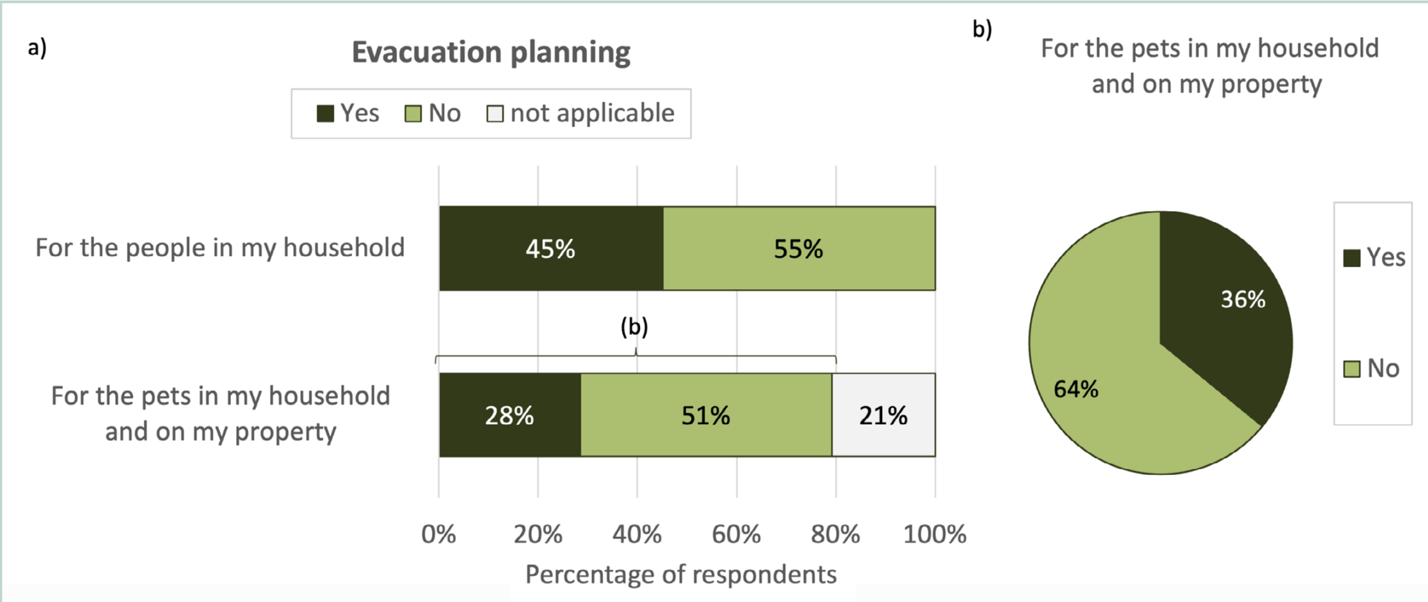


Figure 17—Percentage of respondents who have wildfire evacuation plans for the above categories, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 130–153 respondents for each of the above.

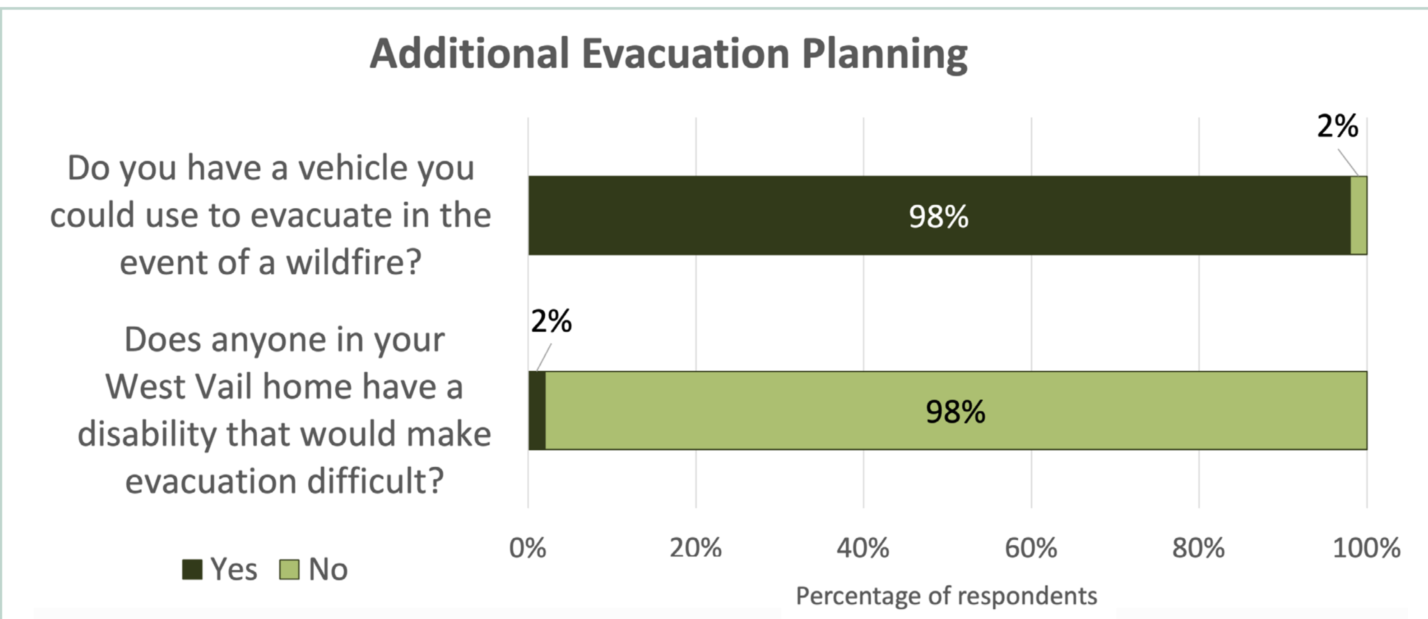


Figure 18—Percentage of respondents who have someone in their home with a disability or have a vehicle that could be used for evacuation, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 148 and 149 respondents for each of the above.

Respondents were asked about which evacuation preparedness activities they completed and about which activities they would like more information (refer to fig. 19). None of the evacuation preparedness activities had been completed by more than 34 percent of respondents, and many respondents wanted more information. Notably, only 26 percent of respondents had signed up for the emergency notification system, but 60 percent of respondents reported wanting more information about signing up. More broadly, two-thirds of respondents (67%) indicated that they would like more information about how they will be notified about evacuation, a step only 21 percent have already taken. Many respondents also reported a desire for more information about identifying safe evacuation routes (59%) and creating a checklist of steps to take before evacuating (57%). A smaller but still notable number of respondents wanted more information about discussing evacuation with neighbors (45%), packing a “go bag” (43%), and deciding what to take or leave behind (41%; refer to fig. 19). When asked about emergency notification language preferences, 99 percent of respondents reported that English was preferable, compared to bilingual English and Spanish (refer to fig. 20).

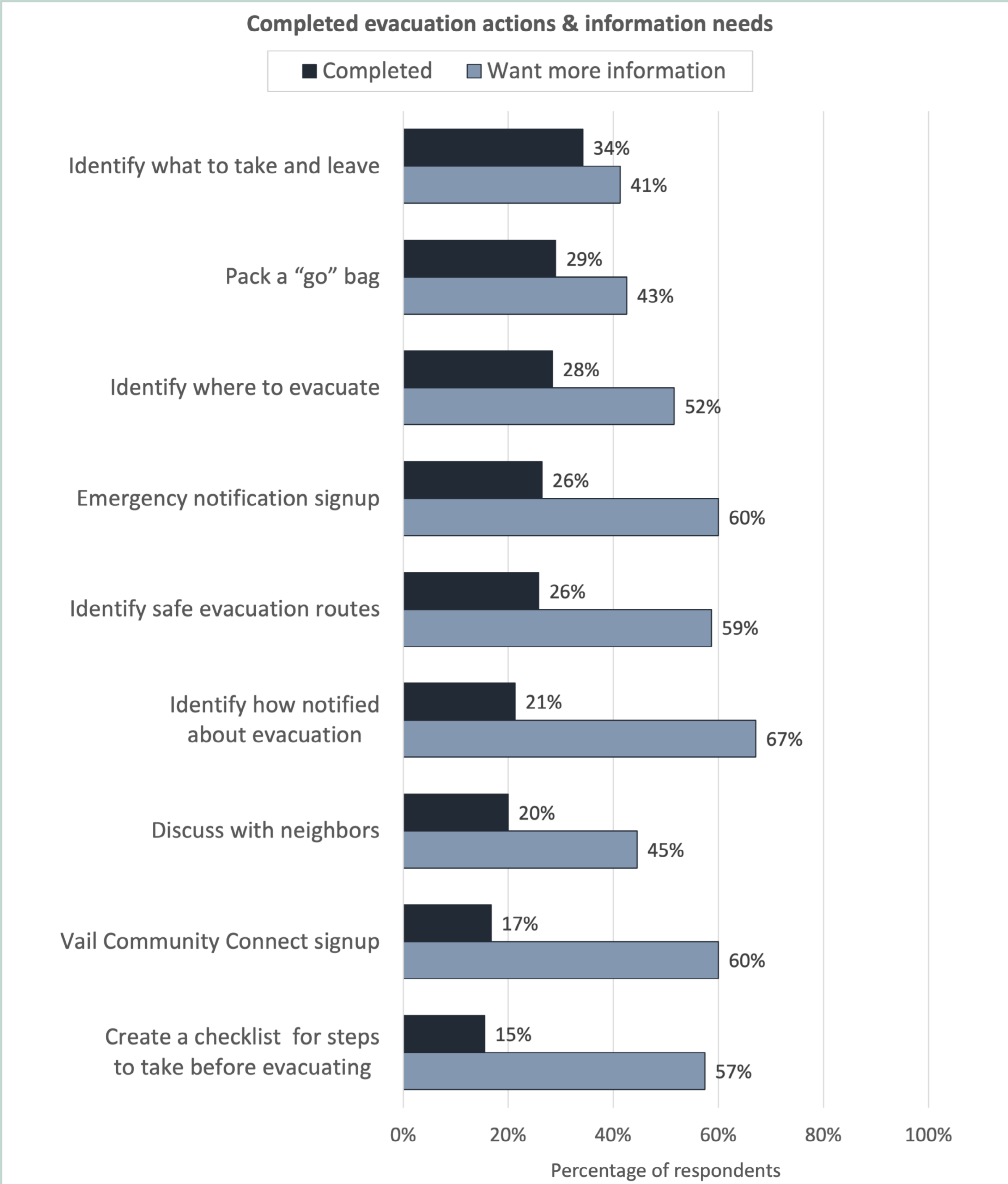


Figure 19—Evacuation preparations completed and information that would be helpful in evacuation plan development, ordered by actions completed, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 155 respondents to the completed action segment. N = 155 respondents to wanting the more information segment.

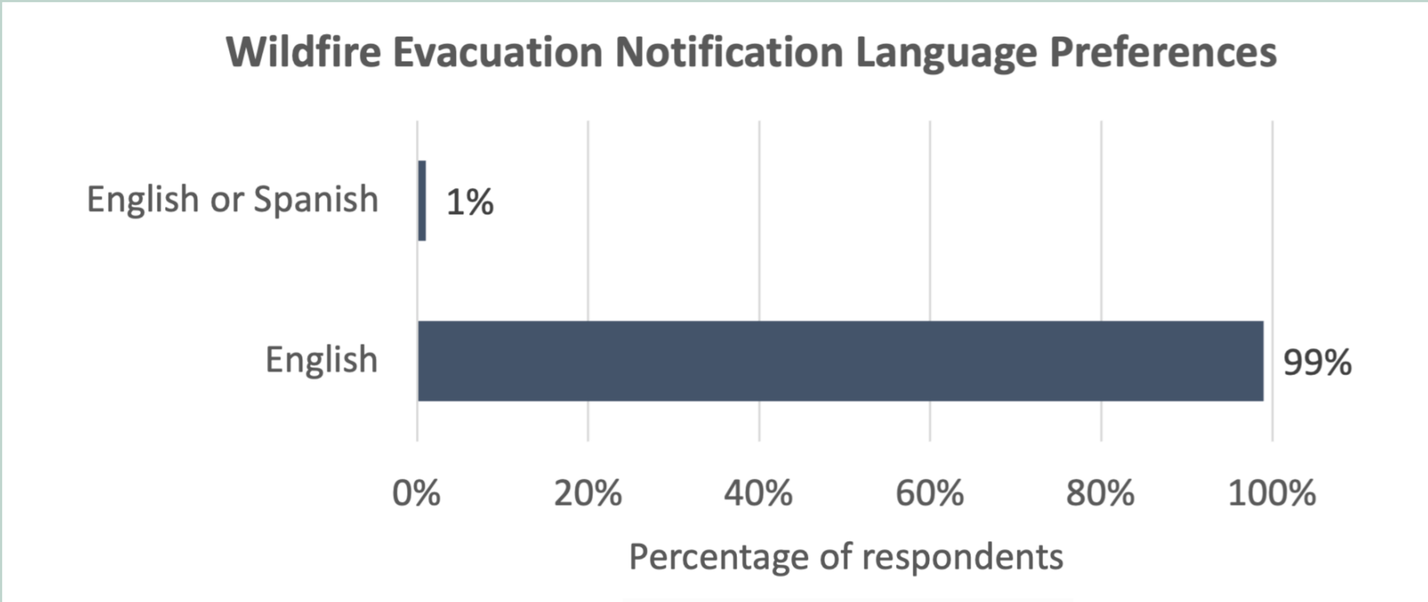


Figure 20—Emergency notification language preferences, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 148 and 149 respondents for each of the above.

Wildfire risk mitigation—

Respondents reported activities they have performed on their property and around their community. The three most reported activities were regularly mowing and raking around the residence (80%), regularly clearing roof and gutters (70%), and reducing vegetation (63%). A smaller number of respondents reported hardening their homes (45%) or meeting with a wildfire professional to evaluate their home's risk (25%). The least reported activities were those performed off respondents' own property, including helping reduce vegetation on community property (23%) or on neighbors' properties (17%), participating in a community wildfire activity (10%), or helping reduce vegetation on public land(s) (7%; refer to fig. 21).

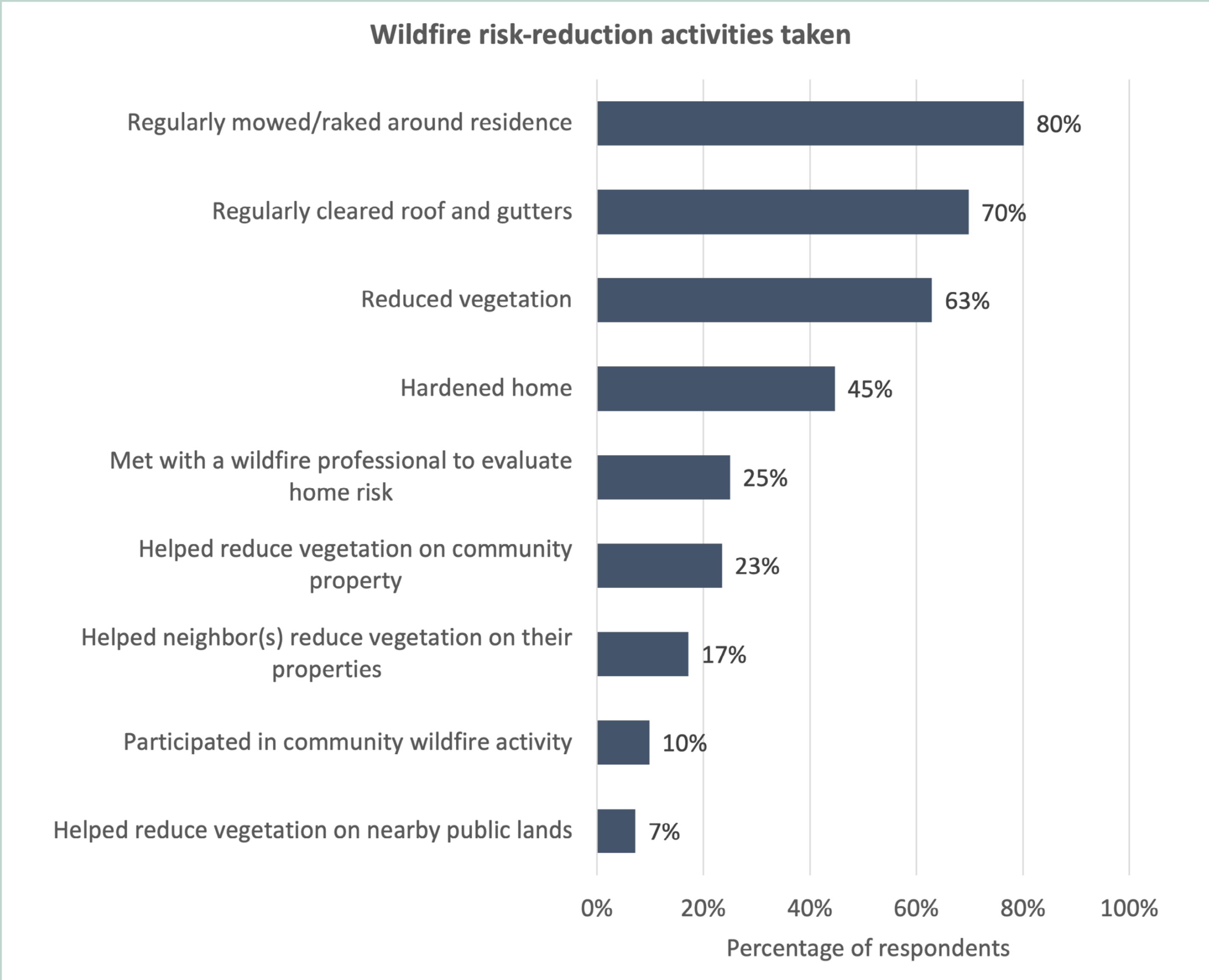


Figure 21—Percent of respondents who reported doing the above wildfire risk mitigation activities, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 149–152 respondents for each of the above activity statements.

Barriers and incentives—

Respondents were asked about four categories of potential barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation, including personal resources, lacking specific information, personal perspectives, and community-based barriers.

Financial cost was the most reported barrier across all categories (36%). Time to do the work was also a top barrier (31%). A moderate percentage of respondents (19%) reported that physical ability to do the work was a barrier to mitigation (19%). Notably, 47 percent of respondents reported none of the personal resource factors were barriers (refer to fig. 22).

Some respondents reported that a lack of information about how to reduce risk on the property (34%) and factors contributing to the property's risk (30%) prevented them from taking action. A smaller but significant percentage of respondents (20%) reported that lack of information about where to dispose of slash vegetation was a barrier. Notably, 47 percent of respondents reported that none of these information issues were barriers (refer to fig. 23).

Barriers rooted in personal perspectives were less commonly selected by respondents. A notable but moderate percentage of respondents (20%) reported the perspective that taking action would not reduce risk. Fewer reported not wanting to change the look of their property (14%) or thinking that mitigation was a low priority (12%). Most respondents (60%) reported that none of these were barriers (refer to fig. 24).

Community barriers to mitigation were the least reported barriers overall. The barrier most selected by respondents among those presented was community restrictions about changing the look of a property (18%), followed by a lack of options for disposing of slash (12%) and social pressure from neighbors (6%). Most respondents (69%) reported that none of these were barriers (refer to fig. 25).

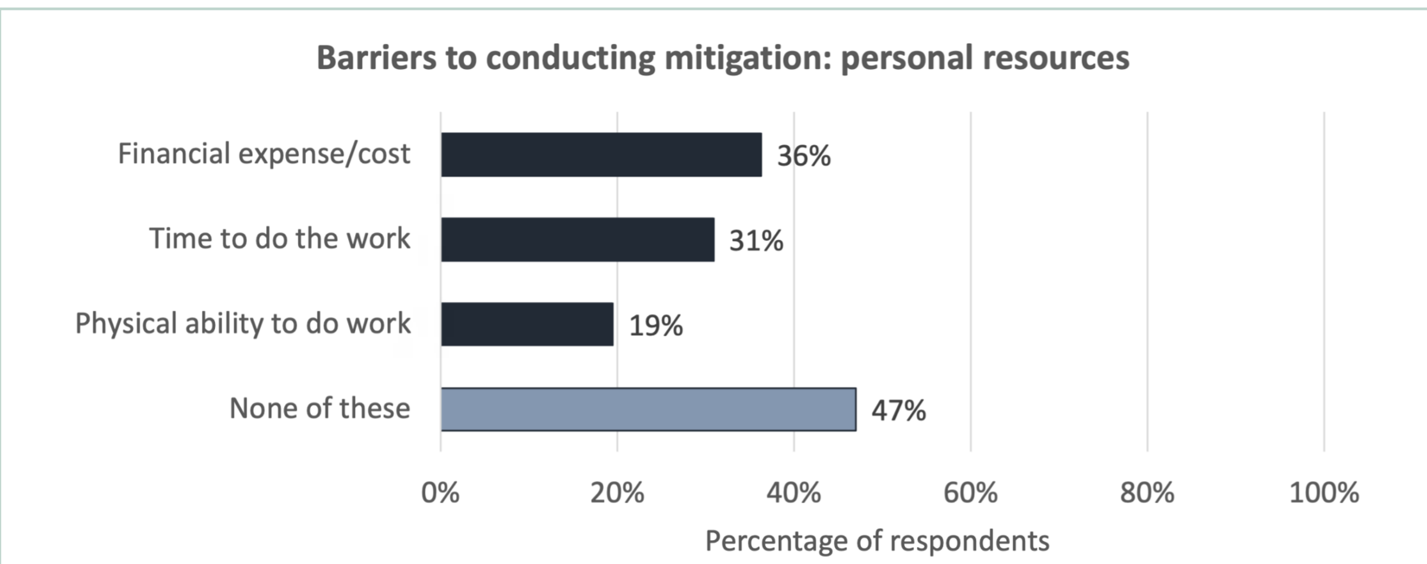


Figure 22—Personal barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado. U.S.A. N = 149–149 respondents for each of the above barriers.

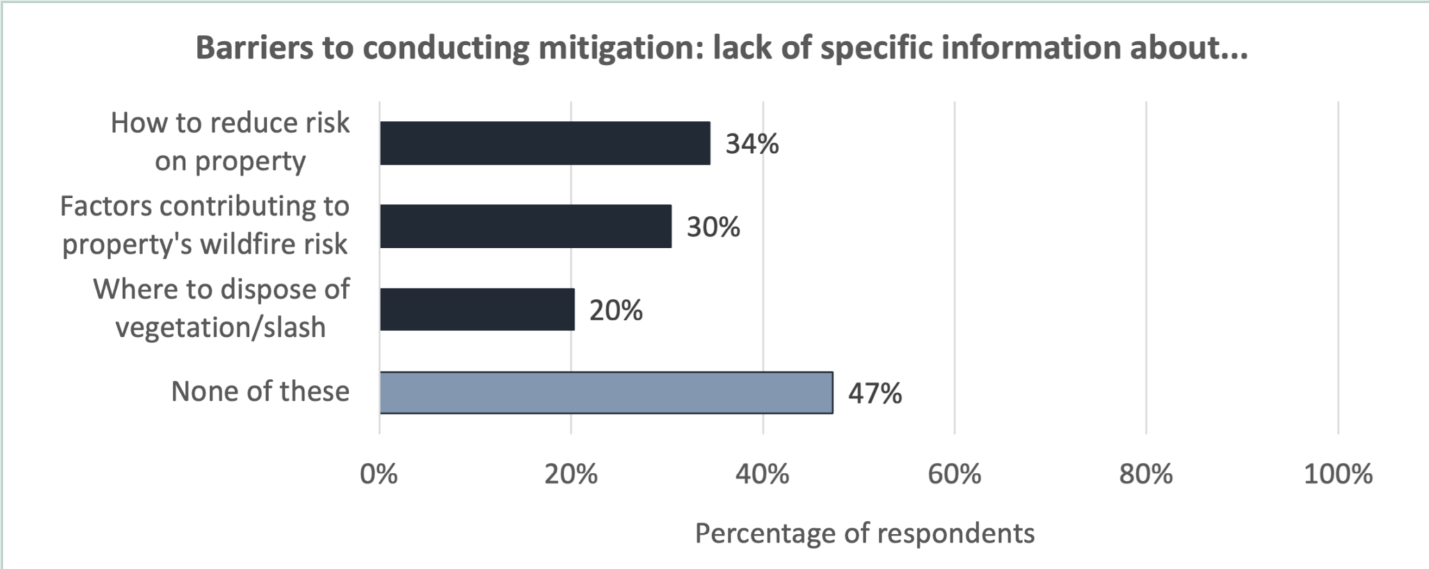


Figure 23—Information barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 148–148 respondents for each of the above barriers.

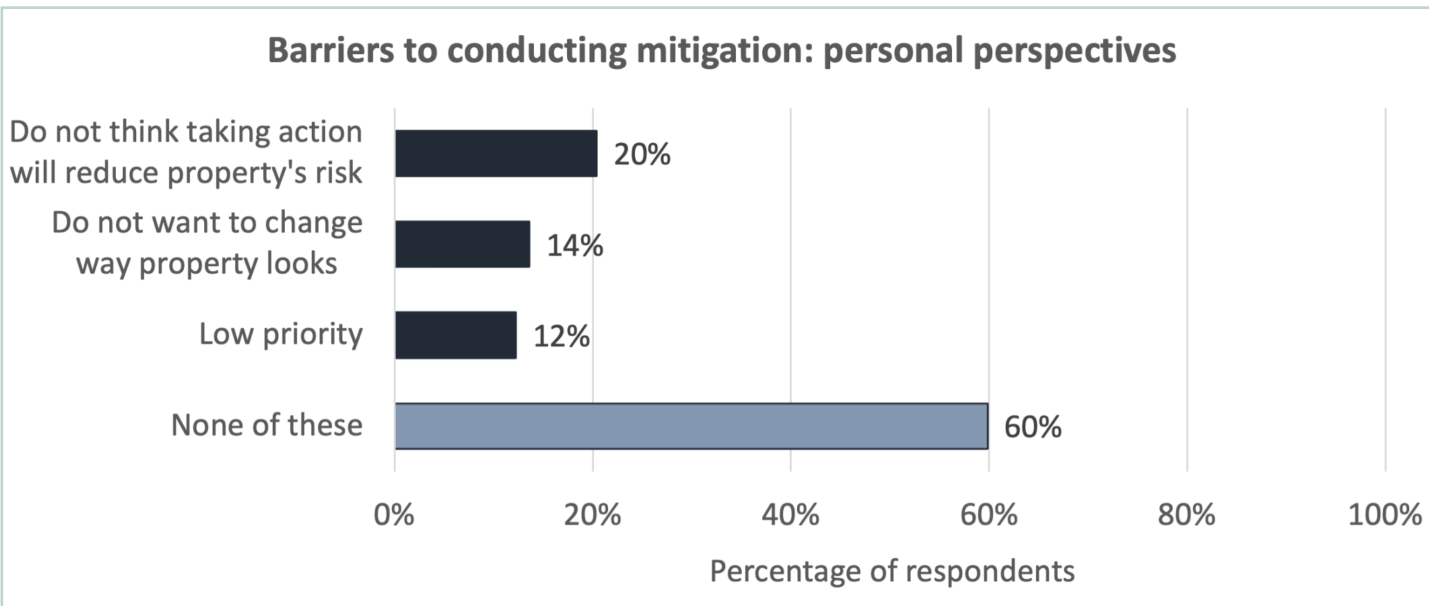


Figure 24—Personal perspectives or values that might affect wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 147–147 respondents for each of the above barriers.

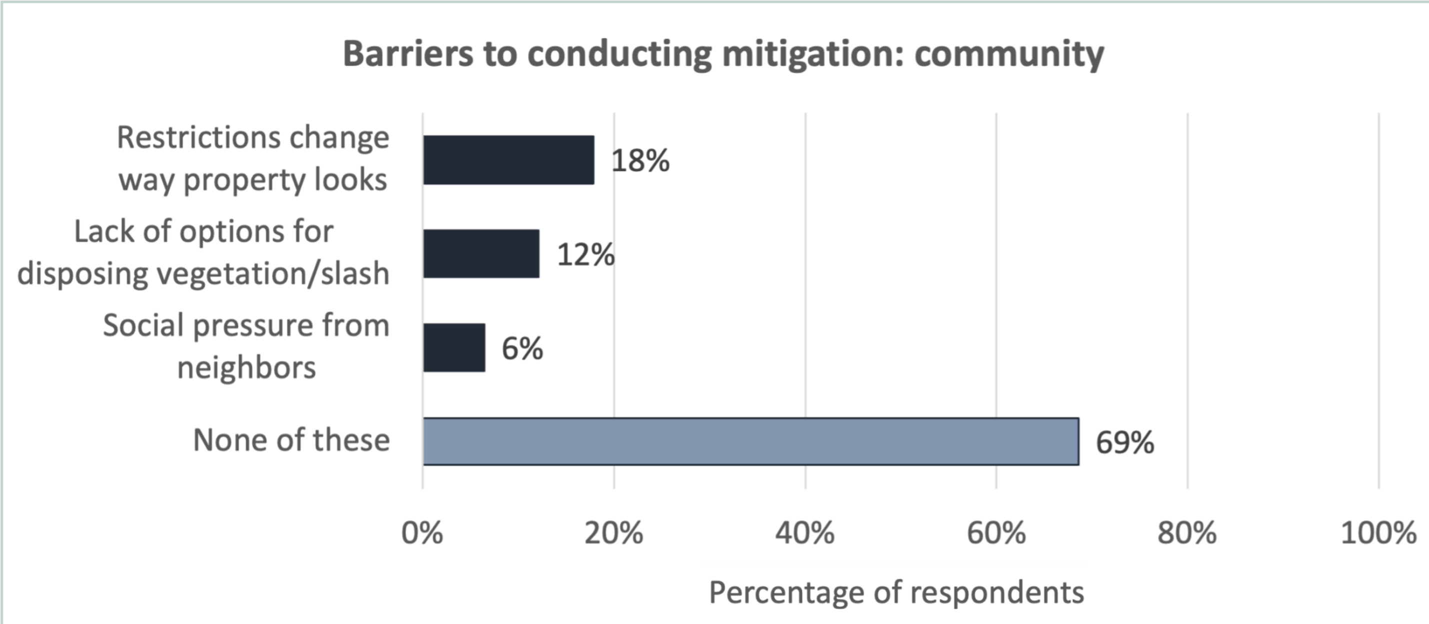


Figure 25—Community-related barriers to conducting wildfire mitigation activities on property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 140–140 respondents for each of the above barriers.

Survey respondents were asked to consider potential incentives that would help them complete mitigation actions. These were presented in three categories: resources, information, and social incentives. In general, more respondents reported that incentives would encourage them to mitigate than barriers prevent them from mitigating.

In the resource incentives category, cost-share or financial assistance was the most popular (53%), followed by help doing the work (49%), and recommended contractors (40%). A quarter (25%) of survey respondents reported that none of these incentives would encourage them to complete mitigation (refer to fig. 26)

In the information category, 73 percent of survey respondents reported that a report describing their property's risk factors would help them to mitigate. Furthermore, 53 percent reported that a one-on-one visit with an expert on their property would encourage them to mitigate. Fewer survey respondents (34%) wanted videos showing how to reduce wildfire risk on their properties. Furthermore, few respondents (16%) reported that none of these incentives would help them complete mitigation (refer to fig. 27).

Social incentives to encourage mitigation were popular with some respondents. Thirty-eight percent reported that feedback on work they had done to reduce their property's risk would be helpful, and 29 percent reported that a neighborhood group that organizes wildfire risk reduction activities would be helpful. However, just 8 percent reported that receiving recognition would be motivating to perform mitigation (refer to fig. 28).

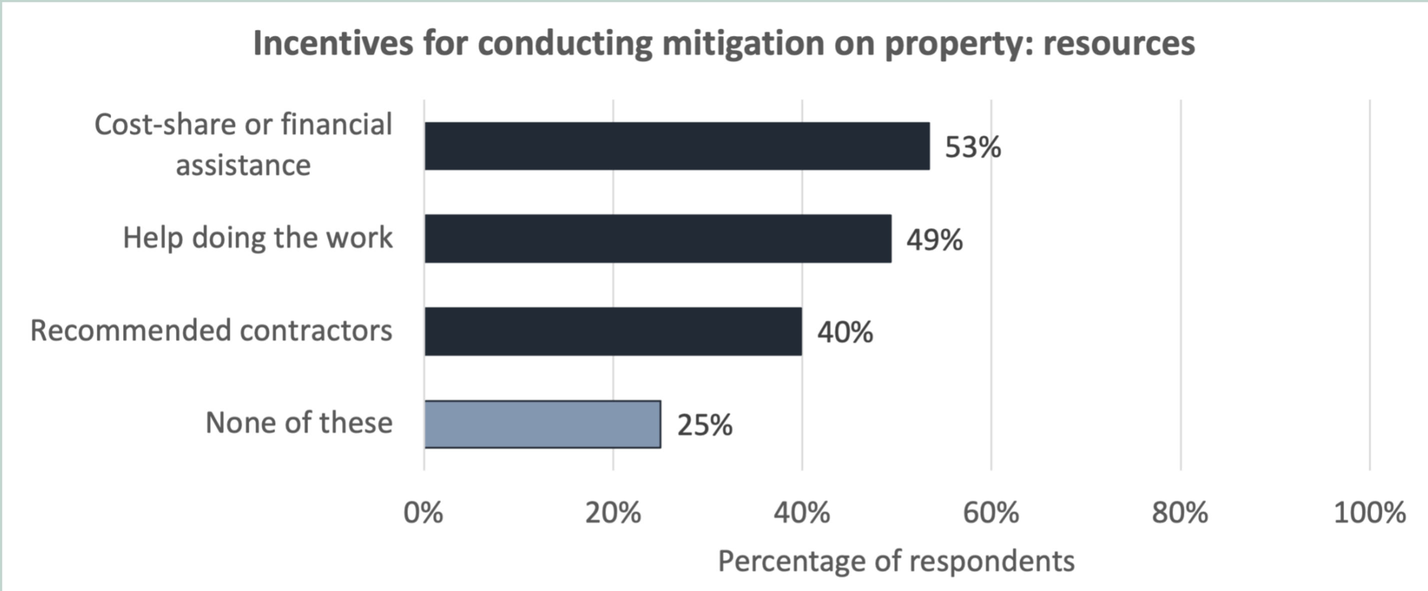


Figure 26—Percentage of respondents who would be encouraged by a resource-related incentive to reduce wildfire risk on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 148–148 respondents for each of the above incentives.

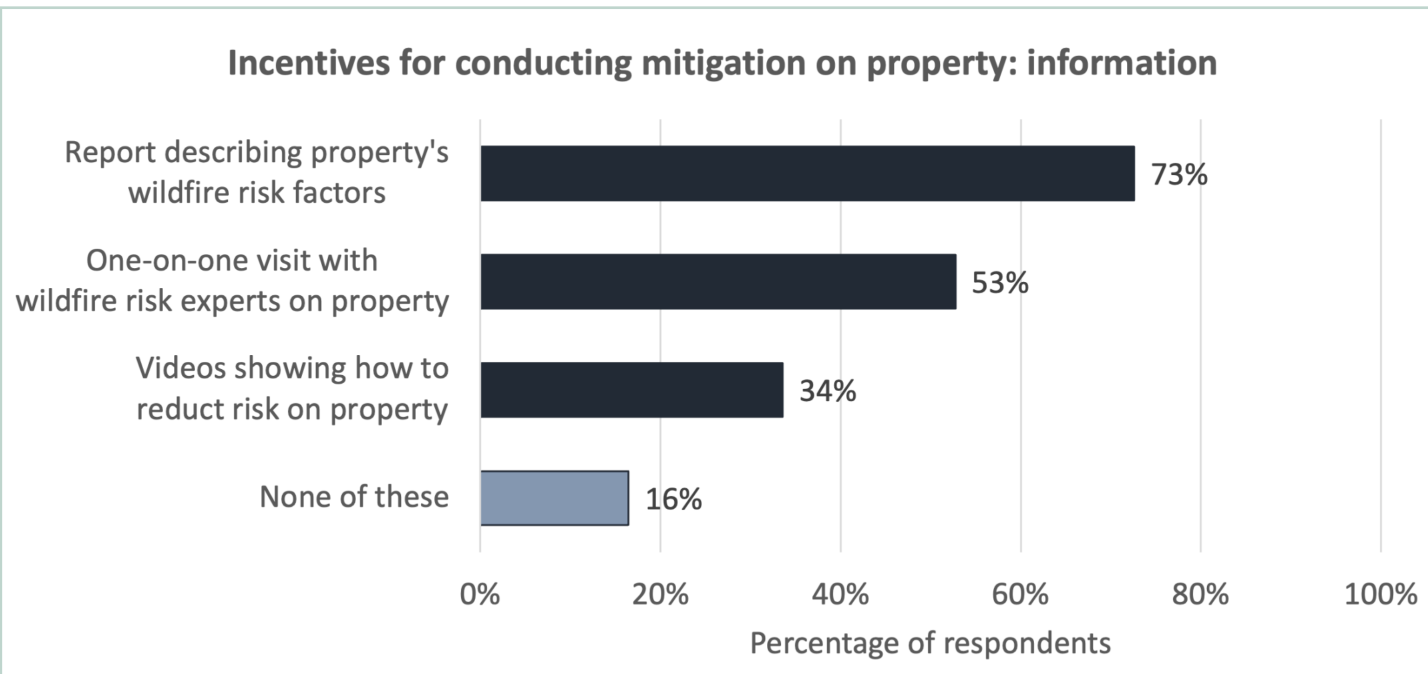


Figure 27—Percentage of respondents who would be encouraged by an information-related incentive to reduce wildfire risk on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 146–146 respondents for each of the above incentives.

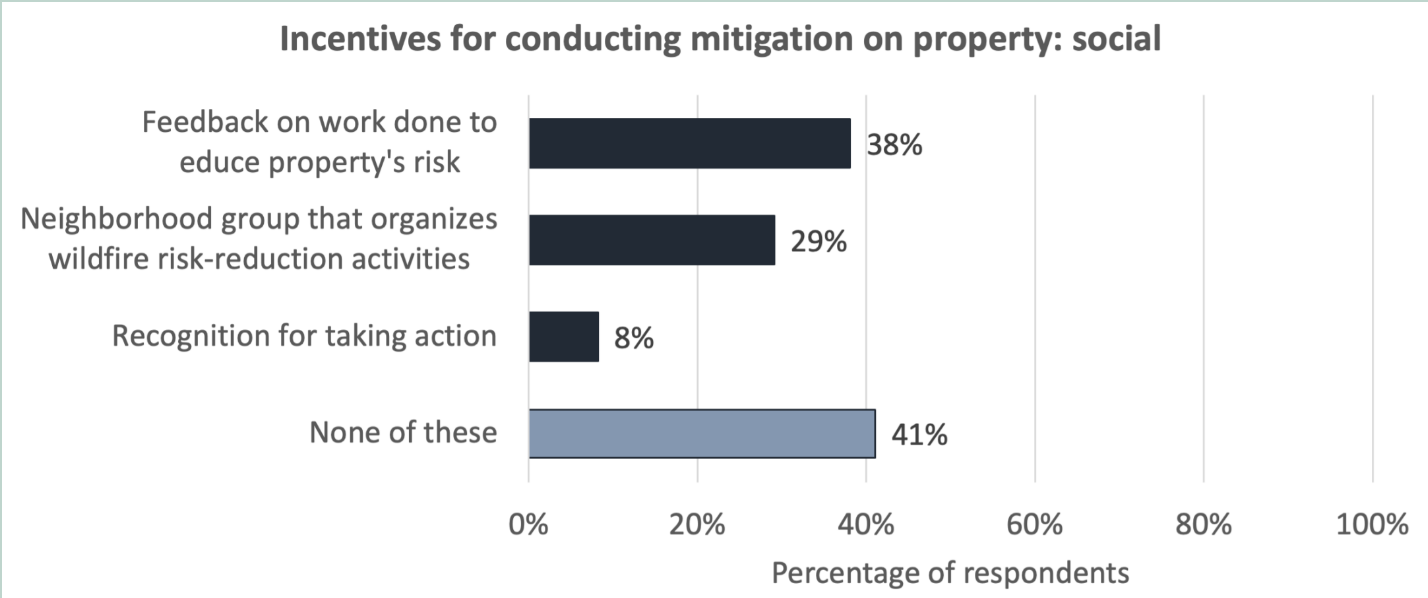


Figure 28—Percentage of respondents who would be encouraged by a socially-related incentive to reduce wildfire risk on their property, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 134–134 respondents for each of the above incentives.

Communication About Wildfire Risk

This section summarizes survey respondent’s communication preferences. It starts with data describing informal information sources, including neighbors and insurance companies. Then this section describes how respondents rated the usefulness of current information sources (e.g., the fire department or the Ready, Set, Go! Program) and the channels by which they prefer to receive information (e.g., e-newsletter, radio, in-person interactions).

Communication with neighbors and insurance—

Interactions with neighbors can help spread information about localized risk of wildfire. Less than half (39%) of survey respondents reported talking to their neighbors about wildfire (refer to fig. 29). However, 56 percent of survey respondents reported that some of their neighbors have taken action to mitigate wildfire risk, and 17 percent reported that most or all neighbors have taken action (refer to fig. 30).

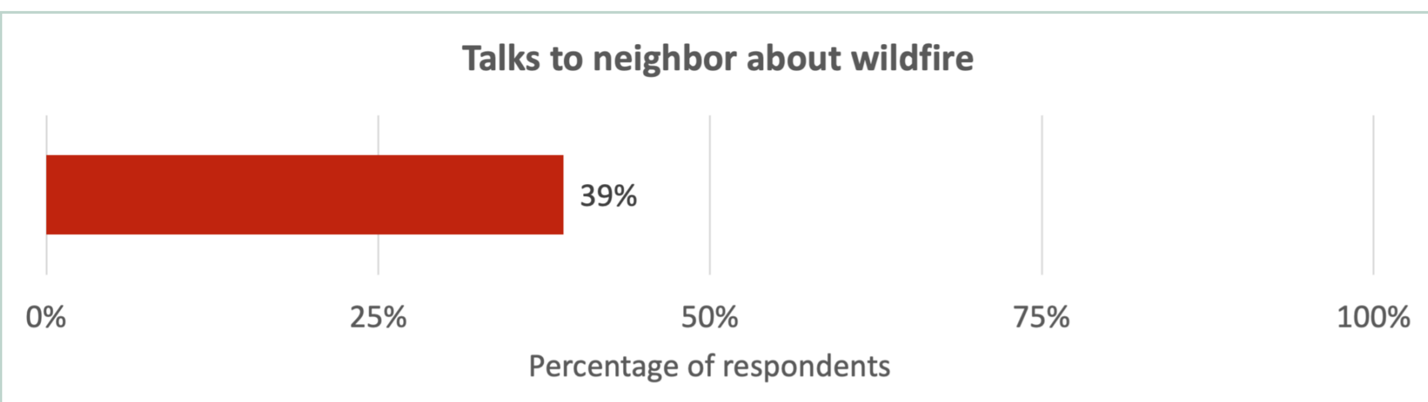


Figure 29—Percentage of respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. who reported talking to their neighbor about wildfire. N = 154 respondents to this survey question.

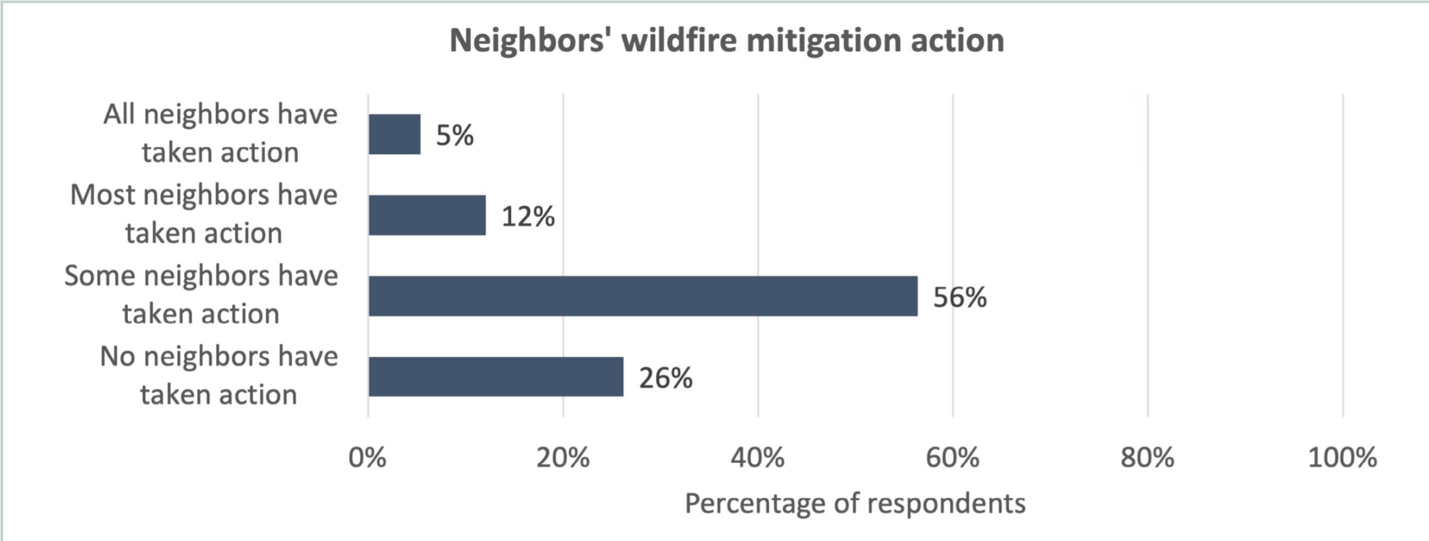


Figure 30—Respondents' estimates of how many neighbors take wildfire mitigation action, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 149 respondents to these two survey questions.

Few survey respondents reported wildfire-related interactions with their insurance companies. Less than a third of respondents reported that their insurance company charged them higher premiums due to wildfire risk (30%) or provided them information about wildfire risk (24%). Less than 10 percent reported that their insurance company refused them coverage on grounds of wildfire risk (9%), required them to mitigate wildfire risk (7%), gave them a discount for mitigating risk (7%), or offered private firefighting services (4%). Notably, 75 percent of respondents thought their home was adequately insured against loss from wildfire. While insurance providers have the potential to shape homeowner knowledge and perceptions of wildfire risk and motivate performance of mitigation activities, these results indicate that insurance companies are not currently playing a big role in wildfire risk mitigation education or driving mitigation behavior among West Vail survey respondents (refer to fig. 31).

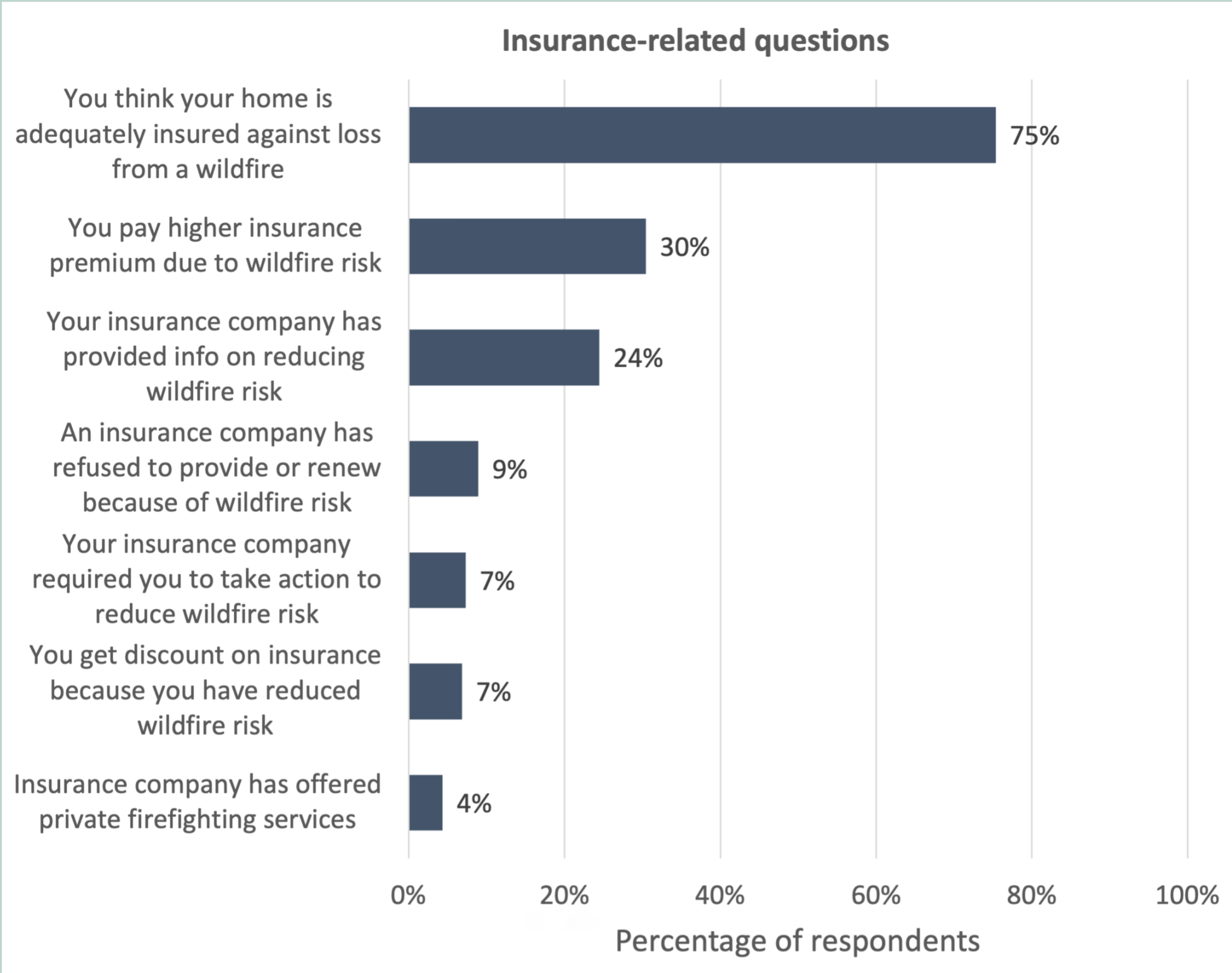


Figure 31—Respondents' knowledge of and experience with various insurance company actions, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. N = 115–146 respondents to each statement.

Sources of information and reported usefulness—

Respondents reported sources they have received wildfire risk information from, and how useful they found those sources to be. Vail Fire and Emergency Services (64%) and media (e.g., newspaper, TV, radio) reached the largest number of respondents. However, 66 percent of respondents found information from Vail Fire and Emergency Services very or extremely useful, whereas only 25 percent found information from the media useful. Other sources were received by far fewer respondents, but around half of those who received information from the USDA Forest Service, community groups, and Colorado State Forest Service found it useful (refer to fig. 32).

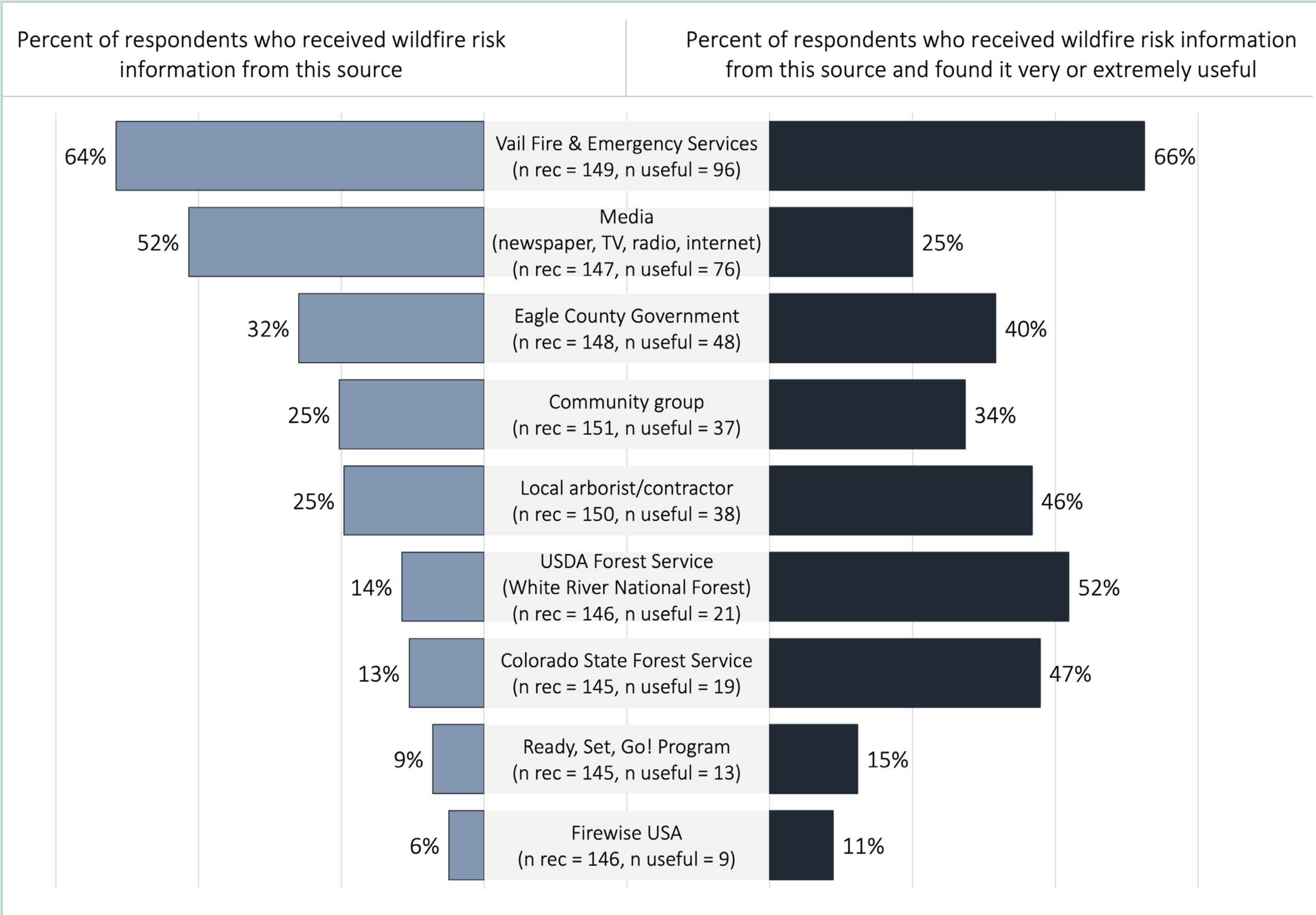


Figure 32—Percentage of respondents who received wildfire risk information, by source, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. These data are compared to the percentage of people who said they found each source's wildfire risk information very or extremely useful (percentage of all respondents who received wildfire risk information from that particular source). N = 145–151 respondents to source receipt questions; N = 9–96 respondents to source usefulness questions. USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Current and preferred channels of communication—

There are many different channels by which information about wildfire may be distributed. The survey asked participants about the forms in which they currently receive wildfire-related information, as well as how they would prefer to receive this information. In general, none of the information channels reached a majority of respondents. Around a quarter of respondents received information via email/e-newsletter, the newspaper, mailed newsletter, and TV news. However, many respondents indicated interest in receiving information via these channels. The channel preferred by the majority of respondents was email/e-newsletter (61%), followed by mailed newsletters (46%) and conversations with local wildfire specialists (43%). For some of the channels of communication, more participants reported wanting to receive information than reported currently receiving information. This was particularly striking for email/e-newsletter and conversations with local wildfire specialists (refer to fig. 33).

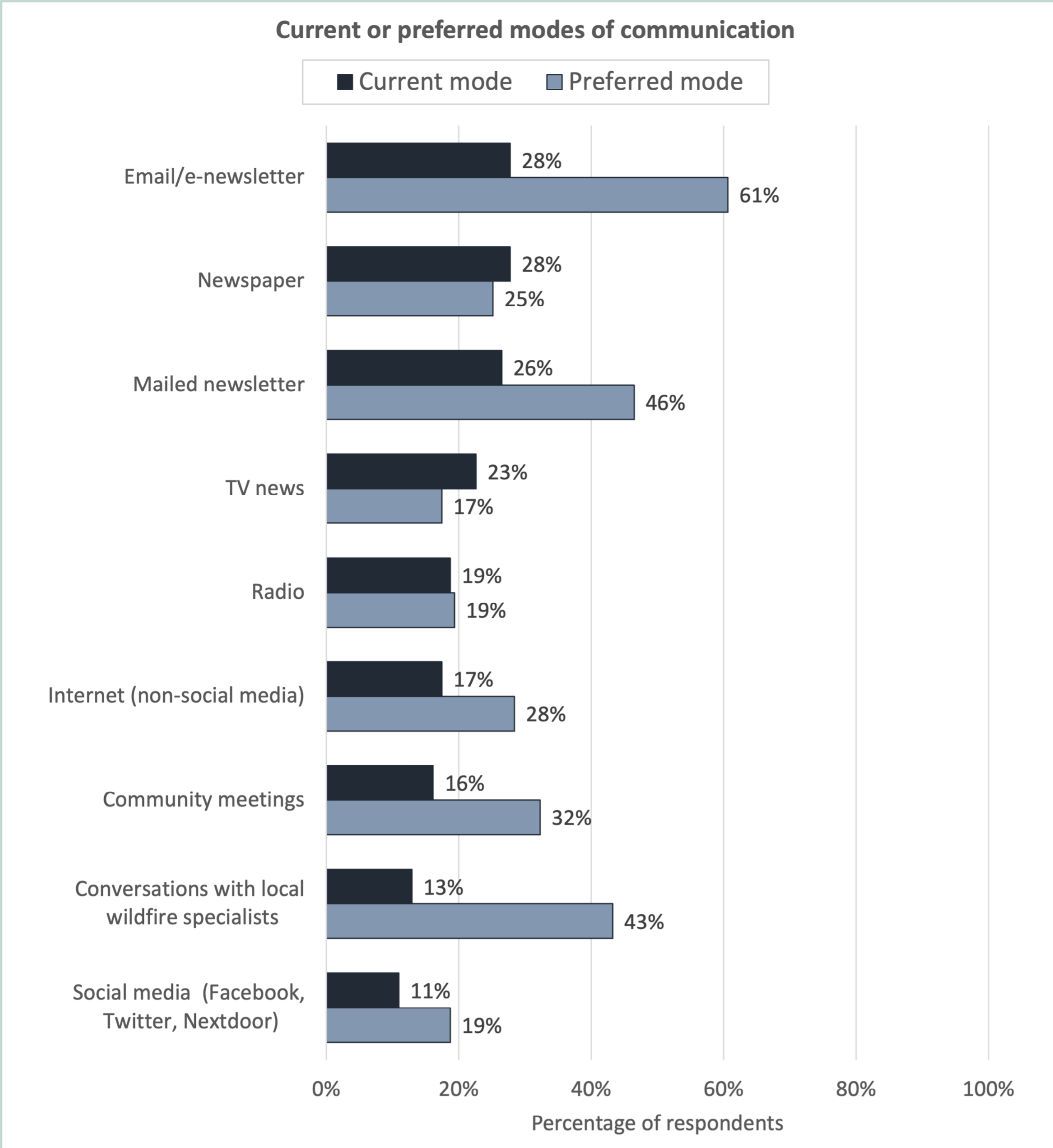


Figure 33—Comparison of current and preferred modes of communication about wildfire risk, ordered by current modes of communication, as reported by respondents residing in the study area in West Vail, Colorado, U.S.A. Survey respondents were able to select multiple options. N = 155 respondents to current modes; N = 155 respondents to preferred modes.

Conclusion

Most survey respondents were high-income, highly educated, secondary homeowners. A majority of respondents were at least somewhat aware of the wildfire risk to their property when they decided to purchase or move in (refer to fig. 2) and few reported experience with wildfire (ref to figs. 3–4). None of the respondents were planning to move out of the area due to wildfire risk, almost two thirds of respondents thought their home was at risk of wildfire (refer to fig. 5), and few thought it likely they would have a fire on their property in the next year (refer to fig. 7).

Although respondents did not seem concerned about wildfire damage to their property, they were concerned about wildfire risk contributors. Many respondents recognized that vegetation on their own property, as well as neighboring properties and public lands, contributed to their wildfire risk (refer to fig. 11). Few respondents thought actions on their own property were ineffective due to vegetation on neighboring properties, and less than half of respondents agreed that development in fire-prone areas increases the wildfire risk to their property (refer to fig. 14). A third or less of respondents thought wildfires were controllable with proper technology, or that local firefighters have sufficient resources to address a wildfire (refer to fig. 13). These wildfire-related beliefs might help explain respondents' strong support for wildfire-related regulations, codes, and policies designed to mitigate wildfire risk on a community scale (refer to fig. 16). Respondents also strongly supported fuels management practices, including near roadways and on public lands, using mechanical and fire treatments (refer to fig. 15). These results point toward several socially acceptable pathways for landscape and community level wildfire risk reduction.

Despite the risks posed by conditions outside their property, most respondents indicated belief in the efficacy of their own actions to reduce risk to their property (refer to fig. 14). Furthermore, few respondents agreed that they live where they do for the trees and would not remove any from their properties, or that managing wildfire risk is the government's responsibility rather than their own (refer to fig. 14). These results indicate that respondents may be open to educational outreach about mitigation and preparedness.

Respondents have completed some evacuation preparedness and mitigation activities, but results indicate that there is more work to be done. Many residents have not completed crucial evacuation preparedness steps, including making an evacuation plan (refer to fig. 17) or signing up for evacuation notifications (refer to fig. 19). Furthermore, while respondents have performed some wildfire risk mitigation activities, including mowing and raking around the residence, regularly clearing roof and gutters, and reducing vegetation around the home, fewer respondents have hardened their home or met with a wildfire professional to evaluate wildfire risk to their home (refer to fig. 21). Respondents cited several resources, information, social, and personal barriers to taking action to reduce risk, although none of the barriers were selected by most respondents (refer to figs. 22–25). However, over half of respondents indicated that financial resources and personalized wildfire risk information would encourage them to mitigate (refer to figs. 25–27). These results suggest the need for further outreach about evacuation preparedness, as well as an opportunity for a personalized risk information campaign.

Survey responses also provided insight into communication methods. Respondents rated Vail Fire as the most useful source of wildfire risk information among the options provided, and almost two-thirds of respondents reported receiving information from them (refer to fig. 32). Respondents preferred to receive that information via electronic or mailed newsletters or conversations with local wildfire specialists (refer to fig. 33). Less than half of respondents indicated that they have discussed wildfire risk with their neighbors, and neither community groups nor community meetings were major avenues for wildfire risk information (refer to figs. 29, 32–33). This lack of community discussion may be related to the fact that most survey respondents consider their home in Vail to be a secondary residence. When designing outreach and programs, considering respondents' communication preferences may increase the success of such efforts.

Appendix A—Correspondence Materials, Recruitment Materials, and Online Household Survey

TOWN OF VAIL

2399 North Frontage Road West
Vail, Colorado 81657
www.vailgov.com

Fire & Emergency Services
970.479.2252
970.479.2176 fax

Dear Homeowner:

Beginning in June, Vail Fire and Emergency Services will be performing a curbside wildfire home hazard evaluation of your property. These evaluations are being conducted to provide you with more information on the current hazards to your property and steps that you can take to protect your home.

Please take a moment and review the evaluation form that will be utilized to identify hazards that may exist on your property. The form and additional explanatory information can be found at https://www.vailwildfire.com/.

The evaluations that are being completed are strictly advisory. You are not obligated to complete any recommendations provided during these evaluations, however even taking little steps may significantly reduce your wildfire risk. Only portions of your property that are visible from the roadway or other public areas will be evaluated during the curbside evaluation.

In addition to the curbside evaluation Vail Fire is conducting a **Living with Wildfire in Vail in 2022 Survey.** This survey will help us understand your knowledge and perspectives on wildfire. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, but the information you provide will help emergency responders better prepare for future fires as well as improve our outreach and education efforts. To participate in the survey, visit https://usdafsrmrs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01ztzg7JamB3ndc or scan the QR Code with any mobile device.

Living with Wildfire in Vail in 2022 Survey

Now is a great time to get out, look at your home and begin with some basic wildfire mitigation. Spring is the time to rake up and dispose of any left-over leaves from the fall, clean the gutters and prune away dead or snow damaged branches or vegetation. Vail Fire will once again be offering free curbside chipping of branches and logs up to 15 inches in diameter. Chipping service has begun for 2022 and will operate weekly through October 28th.

If you would like more information on steps you can take to reduce your risk or to schedule an evaluation of your entire property with a fire department wildfire expert, please contact our office at (970) 477-3475. Our evaluators can provide specific recommendations of actions that you can take on your own property.

Once your home evaluation has been completed you will receive a copy of the results.

A great deal of fuels reduction work has been completed to protect our community from the threat of catastrophic wildfire. History has shown, that even one home without adequate defenses from wildfire can threaten many others. Thank you in advance for your efforts to protect your home and community from the threat of wildfire.

Sincerely,

Paul Cada

Post card:

Take the Living with Wildfire in Vail 2022 Survey

This survey will help us understand your knowledge and perspectives on wildfire. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, but the information you provide will help emergency responders better prepare for future fires as well as improve our outreach and education efforts. To participate in the survey, scan the QR Code with any mobile device:

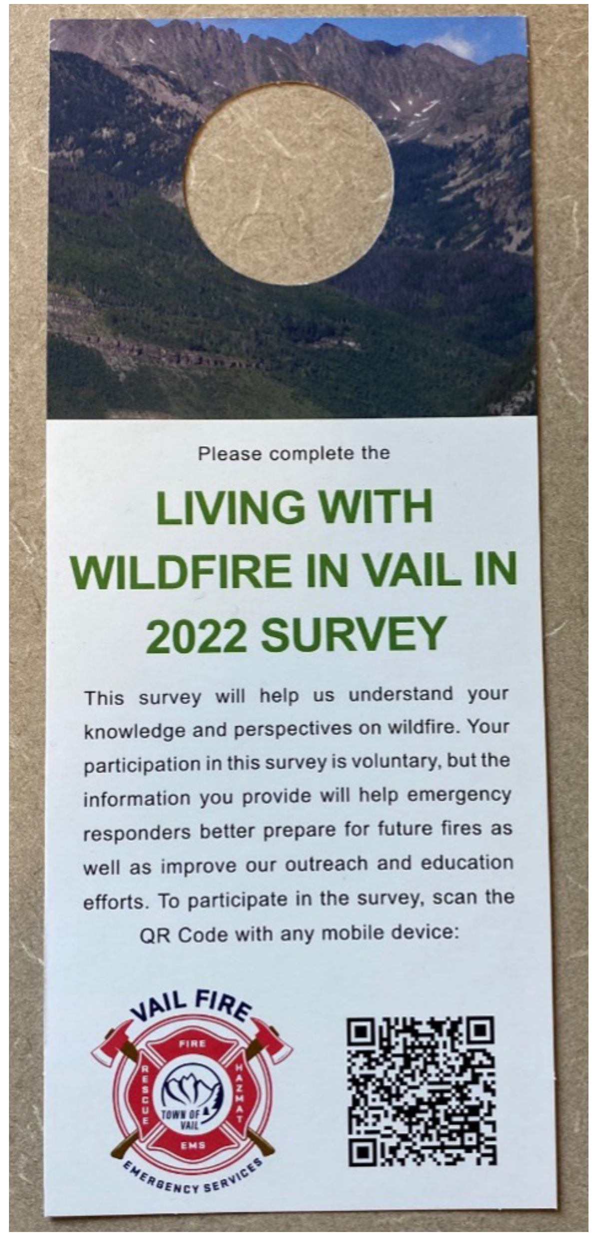
For questions, contact
Paul Cada with Vail Fire & Emergency Services
at 970.477.3475 or PCada@vailgov.com

TOWN OF VAIL
Fire & Emergency Services

2399 North Frontage Road
Vail, Colorado 81657

Sandwich board display recruitment materials:

Door hanger recruitment materials:

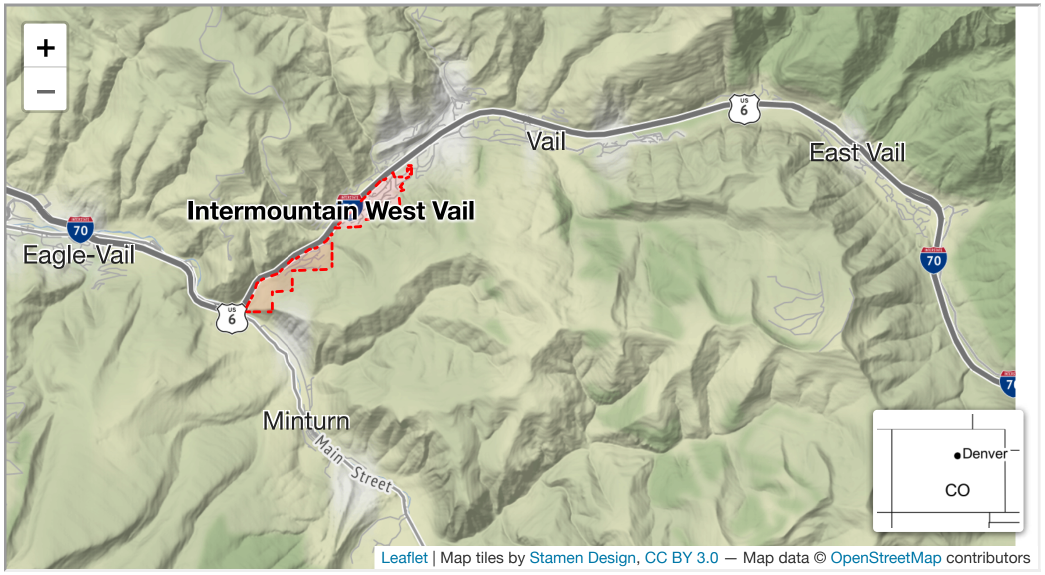


Intro

LIVING WITH WILDFIRE IN INTERMOUNTAIN WEST VAIL

Wildfire risk affects every person and property in Intermountain West Vail. Vail Fire & Emergency Services wants to understand your knowledge and perspectives on wildfire. The information you provide will help us better prepare for a wildfire and improve outreach and education efforts. Your participation in this survey is voluntary and confidential. Completing the survey will take approximately 20 minutes. Thank you for providing your perspectives on this important issue!

This survey is intended for people living in the area highlighted on the map below.



Section 1: Living in Vail

Please enter the address of your West Vail home below. Matching addresses will appear as you type. You can scroll through the list if needed.

What is the address of your West Vail home?

undefined

Were you able to find your address among the addresses shown?

- Yes
- No but I do live in West Vail
- No

Thank you so much for logging into this survey. At this time, Vail Fire & Emergency Services is focusing on certain communities in Intermountain West Vail. We will eventually roll out the survey to other communities throughout Vail. We hope you will participate when this happens.

If you feel you are in the Intermountain West Vail study area and your address did not appear in the drop down, please contact Paul Cada, Wildland Program Manager, at pcada@vailgov.com or 970-477-3474.

SECTION 1 OF 8: LIVING IN INTERMOUNTAIN WEST VAIL

There are many different living situations in Vail. We want to hear from you regardless of whether you rent, own, or have some other living situation.

Throughout this survey, we will refer to ***your Vail home***. When answering questions about ***your Vail home***, we mean the following. If you...

- rent a house, apartment, or condo in Intermountain West Vail, this is **your Vail home.**
- own one home in Intermountain West Vail and live in that home, this is ***your Vail home***.
- own one home in Intermountain West Vail and do not live in that home, this is ***your Vail home***.
- own multiple homes in Intermountain West Vail and live in one of them, the one you live in is ***your Vail home***.
- own multiple homes in Intermountain West Vail but don't live in any of them, just pick one to reference as ***your Vail home***. Your choice!
- live in a house, apartment, or condo in Intermountain West you do not own or rent, this is **your Vail home.**

Do you own or rent your Vail home?

- ○ Own: primary home
- ○ Own: secondary home
- ○ Rent: I do not own my Vail home
- ○ Other: I do not rent or own my Vail home

How long is your rental agreement?

- ○ I have a year long lease
- ○ I am a short term renter (less than one year)

How many months is the lease?

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
Number of months							

In a typical year, what months do you spend any time at your Vail home?

- All 12 months
- Less than 12 months
- No months

What months do you spend any time at your Vail home? (Select all that apply)

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

In what year did you move to your Vail home?

In what year was your Vail home originally built?

How aware of wildfire risk were you when you bought or decided to rent your Vail home?

- Very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Not aware
- Don't remember

Section 2: Experience with wildfire

SECTION 2 OF 8: YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH WILDFIRE

In this section, we ask about your experience with, and preparation for, wildfire at your Vail home. There are 6 sections remaining.

What is the closest distance (as a crow flies) a wildfire has come to your Vail home?

- There has been a wildfire on my property
- Less than 2 miles away, but not on my property
- 2 to 10 miles away
- More than 10 miles away
- Not sure

Have you had any of the following wildfire experiences at your Vail home?

	No	Yes
I have evacuated my Vail home due to a wildfire or threat of a wildfire	○	○
My Vail home has had smoke damage	○	○
My Vail home has had wildfire damage	○	○
My Vail home was destroyed by a wildfire	○	○

Do you currently have an evacuation plan in the event a wildfire threatens your Vail home?

	No	Yes	Not applicable
For the people in my household	○	○	○
For the pets in my household and on my property	○	○	○

How many other people live in your Vail home not including yourself?

0 2 4 6 8 10

In which language do you prefer to receive wildfire evacuation information from Vail Fire & Emergency Services?

Does anyone in your Vail home have a disability that would make evacuation difficult?

○ No
○ Yes

Do you have a vehicle you could use to evacuate in the event of a wildfire?

○ No
○ Yes

Have you completed any of the following actions to prepare for a wildfire evacuation, and do you want more information about how to complete any of the actions? *Please check all boxes that apply.*

	Completed action	Want more information about action
Identify how I will be notified about an evacuation	☐	☐
Sign up for wildfire evacuation notification system (Eagle County Alert System ECAlert.org)	☐	☐
Sign up for Vail Community Connect (www.communityconnect.io/info/co-vail)	☐	☐
Identify safe evacuation routes	☐	☐
Identify a location that my household will evacuate to	☐	☐
Identify what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation	☐	☐
Discuss evacuation with my neighbors	☐	☐
Create a checklist for steps to take before evacuating	☐	☐
Identify a place to stay during a long-term evacuation (i.e., more than a few days)	☐	☐
Pack a "go" bag with important items you would need during an evacuation	☐	☐

Please tell us about your experiences with your homeowners or renters insurance for your Vail home.

	No	Yes	Don't know
Has your current or previous insurance company ever provided information on reducing the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Did an insurance company ever refuse to provide or renew your insurance because of the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Do you pay a higher premium for your insurance due to wildfire risk?	○	○	○

	No	Yes	Don't know
Do you receive a discount on your insurance premium because you have reduced wildfire risk on your property?	○	○	○

Please tell us about your experiences with your homeowners or renters insurance for your Vail home.

	No	Yes	Don't know
Do you think your home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company ever required you to take action to reduce wildfire risk in order to continue coverage?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company offered private firefighting services?	○	○	○

Section 3: Characteristics of your home

SECTION 3 OF 8. CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR HOME

Whether you live in a single- or multi-family home, the characteristics of the building and property affect the chances of it being damaged or destroyed by wildfire. Please consider the entire building and property of your Vail home as you answer the questions in this section.

There are 5 sections remaining.

Does your building have an address that is visible from the road (more than 4" tall and visible at night)?

○ No
○ Yes
○ Don't Know

Does your building have a wood shake shingle roof?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Does your building have wood siding with large gaps or cedar siding on more than 25% of the building?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Does your building have a deck?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Is the deck built with metal, stone, or other ignition resistant material?

- No
- Maybe
- Yes

Does your building have a chimney?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Does the chimney have a screen covering the top (i.e., spark arrestor)?

- No
- Yes
- Don't Know

Does your building have a fence, window boxes, or other building attachments?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Are any of these building attachments constructed of wood?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Does your building have leaves, needles, and other flammable materials...

	No	Yes	Don't know
in the gutters and/or on the roof?	○	○	○
on top or beneath decks, steps, and overhangs?	○	○	○

Does your building have plants, leaves, needles, and other flammable material within 5 feet of building (not including decks, steps or overhangs)?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Does your building have trees or branches within 10 feet of the building?

- No

- Yes
- Don't know

Does your building have grass longer than 4 inches within 30 feet of the building?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

Within 100 feet of your building, do you have...

	No	Yes	Don't know
trees where the crowns touch?	O	O	O
shrubs that make a continuous row?	O	O	O
flammable shrubs, such as junipers, beneath trees?	O	O	O
branches on the bottom 6 feet of large trees (taller than 20 feet)?	O	O	O
dead or dying branches on bottom 10 feet of all trees and bushes?	O	O	O

Section 4: Activities to reduce risk

SECTION 4 OF 8: RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

In this section, we ask about wildfire risk reduction activities. There are 4 sections remaining.

Have you ever talked about wildfire issues with a neighbor?

- No
- Yes

Have you done any of the following wildfire-related activities?

	No	Yes
Removed large or dense vegetation near my Vail home (ex. trees, shrubs, brush)	◯	◯
Regularly cleared my roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles	◯	◯
Regularly mowed and raked around my Vail home	◯	◯
Made my Vail home more fire resistant (ex. replaced roofing, siding, added hardscaping)	◯	◯
Helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation on their properties	◯	◯
Helped reduce vegetation on community property (ex. HOA, subdivision)	◯	◯
Helped reduce vegetation on nearby public lands (ex. county, state federal lands)	◯	◯
Participated in a community wildfire preparedness activity (ex. meeting, chipper day, etc.)	◯	◯
Met with a wildfire professional at my home to evaluate and discuss your property's wildfire risk	◯	◯

How much do you think each of the following factors increases the chances of a wildfire damaging your Vail property **in the next 12 months**?

	A lot	Somewhat	Not at all
Vegetation on my property	◯	◯	◯
Physical characteristics of my house or other buildings (ex. roofing or siding) on my property	◯	◯	◯
Vegetation on my neighbors' properties	◯	◯	◯
Vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land	◯	◯	◯

How many of your immediate neighbors do you think have taken action to reduce wildfire risk on their properties (ex. removing dense vegetation or switching to noncombustible siding)?

- All my neighbors have taken action
- Most of my neighbors have taken action
- Some of my neighbors have taken action
- None of my neighbors have taken action

How acceptable are the following approaches to reducing wildfire risk to Vail to you?

	Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
Removing trees and reducing other vegetation on HOA property surrounding communities to slow the spread of wildfire (ex. fuel breaks)	○	○	○	○	○
Removing trees and reducing other vegetation (thinning/fuel breaks) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire professionals on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Managing a naturally ignited fire (lightning) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○

How acceptable are the following approaches to reducing wildfire risk to Vail to you?

	Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
Growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development in fire-prone areas in Vail	O	O	O	O	O
Building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures in Vail	O	O	O	O	O
Maintenance standards that requires vegetation management (ex. removing or thinning trees and mowing grass) on properties in Vail	O	O	O	O	O
Temporarily shutting off the power grid during extreme fire risk days to avoid new wildfire ignitions	O	O	O	O	O
Removing vegetation along roadways for safer evacuation	O	O	O	O	O
Building a new road(s) to provide an emergency evacuation route	O	O	O	O	O

Section 5: Perceptions of wildfire

SECTION 5 OF 8: YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF WILDFIRE

In this section, we ask about your notions, expectations, and risk perceptions related to wildfire. There are 3 sections remaining.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
With proper technology, we can control most wildfires	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten human life	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten homes	○	○	○	○	○
During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving the forests	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires are a natural part of a healthy forest/ecosystem	○	○	○	○	○
I live here for the trees and will not remove any of them to reduce wildfire risk	○	○	○	○	○
Managing the wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not mine	○	○	○	○	○
Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective	○	○	○	○	○

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My property is at risk of wildfire	○	○	○	○	○
My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is not effective because of the hazards on my neighbors' properties	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep a wildfire from spreading	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes	○	○	○	○	○
Firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect my home	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires threaten my community water supply	○	○	○	○	○
I plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires	○	○	○	○	○
Development in fire-prone areas of Vail increases the wildfire risk to my Vail property	○	○	○	○	○

If there is a wildfire on your Vail property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur?

	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Slightly likely	Not at all likely	Not applicable
I would put the fire out	○	○	○	○	○	○
The fire department would save my home	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have smoke damage	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have some physical damage	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would be destroyed	○	○	○	○	○	○
I would lose money due to the loss of business or income on my property	○	○	○	○	○	○
My trees and landscape would burn	○	○	○	○	○	○
My neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed	○	○	○	○	○	○
Direct flame would ignite my home	○	○	○	○	○	○
Embers would ignite my home	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nearby homes would ignite my home	○	○	○	○	○	○

What do you think is the chance that a wildfire will be on your Vail property **in the next 12 months**?

0 20 40 60 80 100

Percent chance [ ]

If there is a wildfire on your property in **the next 12 months**, what do you think is the chance that it will destroy or severely damage your Vail home?

	0	20	40	60	80	100	
Percent chance							☐

Section 6: Wildfire information

SECTION 6 OF 8: INFORMATION SOURCES ON WILDFIRE

In this section, we ask where you get information about wildfire, how useful the information is, how you receive information, and how you would like to receive information. There are 2 sections remaining.

The following sources provide information about wildfire risk. Have you received information from these sources?

	No	Yes
Vail Fire & Emergency Services	○	○
Community group (ex. homeowners association)	○	○
Local arborist/ contractor	○	○
Eagle County Government	○	○
Firewise USA	○	○
Ready, Set, Go! Program	○	○
Colorado State Forest Service	○	○

	No	Yes
USDA Forest Service (White River National Forest)	○	○
Media (newspaper, TV, radio, internet)	○	○

How useful has each source been for wildfire risk information?

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful
» Vail Fire & Emergency Services	○	○	○	○	○
» Community group (ex. homeowners association)	○	○	○	○	○
» Local arborist/ contractor	○	○	○	○	○
» Eagle County Government	○	○	○	○	○
» Firewise USA	○	○	○	○	○
» Ready, Set, Go! Program	○	○	○	○	○
» Colorado State Forest Service	○	○	○	○	○
» USDA Forest Service (White River National Forest)	○	○	○	○	○
» Media (newspaper, TV, radio, internet)	○	○	○	○	○

How do you currently receive information about wildfire risk reduction and how would you prefer to receive information? Please check all boxes that apply.

	Currently receive	Would like to receive
Email/e-newsletter	☐	☐
Mailed newsletter	☐	☐
Community meetings	☐	☐
Conversations with local wildfire specialists	☐	☐
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor)	☐	☐
Internet (non-social media)	☐	☐
TV news	☐	☐
Newspaper	☐	☐
Radio	☐	☐

Section 7: Barriers to act

SECTION 7 OF 8: BARRIERS TO ACT

In this section, we would like to know why you do or do not take action to reduce the risk of wildfire to your Vail property. There is 1 section remaining.

Do any of the following **prevent you** from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Vail property (ex. cutting trees, changing roof/siding)? Please check all boxes that apply.

	Financial Cost	Time to do the work	Physical ability to do the work	None of these
Personal Resources	☐	☐	☐	☐

	The factors contributing to my property's wildfire risk	How to reduce wildfire risk on my property	Where to dispose of vegetation/slash	None of these
Lack of specific information about	☐	☐	☐	☐

	I do not want to change the way my property looks	I do not think taking action would reduce my properties wildfire risk	It's a low priority to me	None of these
Personal Perspectives	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Lack of options for disposing vegeation/slash	Restrictions on the changes I can make to my property	Social pressure or lack of argreement with neighbors	None of these
Community	☐	☐	☐	☐

Would any of the following **encourage you** to take action to reduce the wildfire risk on your Vail property? Please check all boxes that apply.

	Cost-share or financial assistance	Help doing the work	Recommended contractors	None of these
Resources	☐	☐	☐	☐

	A report describing my property's wildfire risk factors	Videos showing how to reduce risk on a property in my area	One-on-one visit with wildfire risk experts on my property	None of these
Information	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Feedback on the work I've done to reduce my property's risk	Recognition for taking action	Neighborhood groups that organizes wildfire risk-reduction activities	None of these
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 8: Demographics

SECTION 8 OF 8: ABOUT YOU

In this section, we ask about personal and household characteristics. Your name will never be connected to your answers in any way. This is the final section.

In general, do you view yourself as someone who is very willing to take risks or not at all willing to take risks?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Willingness to take risks												☐

What is your age?

☐

Are you?

- Male
- Female
- Other

What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate
- Some college or technical school
- Technical or trade school
- College graduate
- Some graduate work
- Advanced degree (M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- Employed fulltime (including self-employment)
- Employed part time (including self-employment)
- Unemployed or do not work outside of the home
- Retired

Which of the following categories describes your annual household income?

- Less than $15,000
- $15,000 - $24,999
- $25,000 - $34,999
- $35,000 - $49,999
- $50,000 - $75,999
- $75,000 - $99,999
- $100,000 - $149,999
- $150,000 - $199,999
- $200,000 or more

How did you find out about this survey?

- ○ Postcard mailed to me
- ○ Sandwich board sign
- ○ Door hanger
- ○ Postcard delivered by my property manager
- ○ Email from my property manager
- ○ ______ Other: please specify

End of survey

*Thank you for your help. Please use the space below to write any additional comments. If you would like to schedule an onsite visit with a wildfire professional to learn how you can reduce risk on your property, contact **Paul Cada**, Wildland Program Manager, at pcada@vailgov.com or 970-477-3474 or visit https://www.vailwildfire.com/Contact.*

Appendix B: Correspondence Materials and Paper Household Survey

Dear Vail Resident,

Communities throughout Colorado have felt the devastating effects of wildfire. In an attempt to confront disaster ahead of time, Vail Fire and Emergency Services has programs and services to help community members be better prepared. To create the most effective programs possible, we need to understand what you know about wildfire, your experiences with wildfire, as well as the characteristics of your property.

Vail Fire and Emergency Services is asking that you, and all residents of West Vail, complete the enclosed “Living with Wildfire in Vail in 2022” survey. Participation in this study is completely voluntary and will take about 20 minutes. We realize your time is valuable and we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey.

When you return the survey, your name will be deleted from the mailing list. Survey results will be reported in summary form and your name will not be connected to your answers in any way. After completing the survey, please fold it and put it in the postage paid return envelope.

If you have any questions about this survey, please email or call Paul Cada, Wildland Program Manager at 970-477-3475 or PCada@vailgov.com.

Thank you for participating.
Sincerely,

Mark Novak

Paul Cada
Paul Cada (Oct 20, 2022 09:19 MDT)

Mark Novak
Fire Chief
Vail Fire and Emergency Services

Paul Cada
Wildland Program Manager
Vail Fire and Emergency Services

Living with Wildfire in West Vail in 2022

2399 N. Frontage Road W.
Vail, Colorado 81657
https://vailgov.com/fire

Section 1: In this first section of the survey, we ask about your home in West Vail. Please answer the following questions with respect to your ***West Vail home***.

When choosing a response, please fill in the circle completely. Correct: ● Incorrect: ◯ ◯ ◯ ◯

1.1. Do you own or rent your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Own: primary home
- ○ Own: secondary home
- ○ Rent: I do not own my West Vail home → How long is your lease? *(Fill in one circle)*
  - ○ One year long or longer
  - ○ Less than one year

1.2. In a typical year, what months do you spend any time at your West Vail home? (*Fill in all that apply*)

All 12 months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	No months
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

1.3. In what year did you move to your West Vail home? (*Fill in the blank*)

______________ Year moved to my West Vail home

1.4. In what year was your West Vail home originally built? (*Fill in the blank*)

______________ Year my West Vail home was built

1.5. How aware of wildfire risk were you when you bought or decided to rent your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Very aware
- ○ Somewhat aware
- ○ Not aware
- ○ Don't remember

Section 2: In this section, we ask about your experience with, and preparation for, wildfire at your West Vail home.

2.1. What is the closest distance (as a crow flies) a wildfire has come to your West Vail property? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ There has been a wildfire on my property
- ○ Less than 2 miles away, but not on my property
- ○ 2 to 10 miles away
- ○ More than 10 miles away
- ○ Not sure

2.2. Have you had any of the following wildfire experiences at your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes
I have evacuated from my West Vail home due to a wildfire or threat of a wildfire	○	○
My West Vail home has had smoke damage	○	○
My West Vail home has had wildfire damage	○	○
My West Vail home was destroyed by a wildfire	○	○

2.3. Do you currently have an evacuation plan in the event a wildfire threatens your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes	Not applicable
For the people in my household	○	○	
For the pets in my household and on my property	○	○	○

2.4. Below are additional questions about evacuation. *(Fill in one circle per row)*

	No	Yes
Does anyone in your West Vail home have a disability that would make evacuation difficult?	○	○
Do you have a vehicle you could use to evacuate in the event of a wildfire?	○	○

2.5. How many other people live in your West Vail home, not including yourself? (*Fill in the blank*)

______________ Number of people living in my West Vail home

2.6. In which language do you prefer to receive wildfire evacuation information from Vail Fire & Emergency Services? (*Fill in the blank*)

______________ Preferred language

2.7. Have you completed any of the following actions to prepare for a **wildfire evacuation,** and do you want more information about how to complete any of the actions? (*Fill in all circles that apply*)

	Completed action?	Want more information?
Identify how I will be notified about an evacuation	○	○
Sign up for a wildfire evacuation notification system (Eagle County Alert System ECAlert.org)	○	○
Sign up for Vail Community Connect (www.communityconnect.io/info/co-vail)	○	○
Identify safe evacuation routes	○	○
Identify a location that my household will evacuate to	○	○
Identify what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation	○	○
Discuss evacuation with my neighbors	○	○
Create a checklist for steps to take before evacuating	○	○
Identify a place to stay during a long-term evacuation (i.e., more than a few days)	○	○
Pack a "go" bag with important items you would need during an evacuation	○	○

2.8. Please tell us about your experiences with your **homeowners insurance** for your West Vail home. (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes	Don't know
Has your current or a previous insurance company ever provided information on reducing the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Did an insurance company ever refuse to provide or renew insurance because of the risk of wildfire?	○	○	○
Do you pay a higher premium for your insurance due to wildfire risk?	○	○	○
Do you receive a discount on your insurance premium because you have reduced wildfire risk on your property?	○	○	○
Do you think your home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company ever required you to take action to reduce wildfire risk in order to continue coverage?	○	○	○
Has your current insurance company offered private firefighting services?	○	○	○

Section 3: Whether you live in a single- or multi-family home, the characteristics of the building and property affect the chances of it being damaged or destroyed by wildfire. Please consider the entire building and property of your Vail home as you answer the questions in this section.

3.1. Does your building have an address that is visible from the road (more than 4" tall and visible at night)? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.2. Does your building have a wood shake shingle roof? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.3. Does your building have wood siding with large gaps or cedar siding on more than 25% of the building?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.4. Does your building have a deck? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes →

	No	Maybe	Yes
Is the deck built with metal, stone, or other ignition resistant material? *(Fill in one circle)*	○	○	○

- ○ Don't know

3.5. Does your building have a chimney? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes → Does the chimney have a screen covering the top (i.e., spark arrestor)? *(Fill in one circle)*
- ○ Don't know

	No	Yes	Don't know
Does the chimney have a screen covering the top (i.e., spark arrestor)? *(Fill in one circle)*	○	○	○

3.6. Does your building have a fence, window boxes, or other building attachments?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes → Are any of these building attachments constructed of wood? *(Fill in one circle)*
- ○ Don't know

	No	Yes	Don't know
Are any of these building attachments constructed of wood? *(Fill in one circle)*	○	○	○

3.7. Does your building have leaves, needles, and other flammable materials...

	No	Yes	Don't know
…in the gutters and/or on the roof?	○	○	○
…on top or beneath decks, steps, and overhangs?	○	○	○

3.8. Does your building have plants, leaves, needles, and other flammable material within 5 feet of building (not including decks, steps or overhangs)?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.9. Does your building have trees or branches within 10 feet of the building?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.10. Does your building have grass longer than 4 inches within 30 feet of the building?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Don't know

3.11. Within 100 feet of the building, does your building have…

	No	Yes	Don't know
…trees where the crowns touch?	○	○	○
…shrubs that make a continuous row?	○	○	○
…flammable shrubs such as junipers beneath trees?	○	○	
…branches on the bottom 6 feet of large trees (taller than 20 feet)?	○	○	○
…dead or dying branches on bottom 10 feet of all trees and bushes?	○	○	

Section 4: In this section, we ask about wildfire risk reduction activities.

4.1. Have you ever talked about wildfire issues with a neighbor? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes

4.2. Have you done any of the following wildfire-related activities? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	No	Yes
Removed large or dense vegetation near my West Vail home (ex. trees, shrubs, brush)	○	○
Regularly cleared my roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles	○	○
Regularly mowed and raked around my West Vail home	○	○
Made my West Vail home more fire resistant (ex. replaced roofing, siding, added hardscaping)	○	○
Helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation on their properties	○	○
Helped reduce vegetation on community property (ex. HOA, subdivision)	○	○
Helped reduce vegetation on nearby public lands (ex. county, state, federal lands)	○	○
Participated in a community wildfire preparedness activity (ex. meeting, chipper day, etc.)	○	○
Met with a wildfire professional at your West Vail home to evaluate and discuss your property's wildfire risk	○	○

4.3. How much do you think each of the following factors increases the chances of a wildfire damaging your West Vail property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	A lot	Somewhat	Not at all
Vegetation on my property	○	○	○
Physical characteristics of my house or other buildings (ex. roofing or siding) on my property	○	○	○
Vegetation on my neighbors' properties	○	○	○
Vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land	○	○	○

4.4. How many of your immediate neighbors do you think have taken action to reduce wildfire risk on their properties (ex. removing dense vegetation or switching to noncombustible siding)? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ All my neighbors have taken action
- ○ Most of my neighbors have taken action
- ○ Some of my neighbors have taken action
- ○ None of my neighbors have taken action

4.5. How acceptable are the following approaches to **reducing wildfire risk** in West Vail to you? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
Removing trees and reducing other vegetation on HOA property surrounding communities to slow the spread of wildfire (ex. fuel breaks)	○	○	○	○	○
Removing trees and reducing other vegetation (thinning/fuel breaks) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire professionals on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Managing a naturally ignited fire (lightning) on nearby public lands	○	○	○	○	○
Growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development in fire-prone areas in West Vail	○	○	○	○	○
Building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas in West Vail	○	○	○	○	○
Maintenance standards that require vegetation management (ex. removing or thinning trees and mowing grass) on lots located in fire-prone areas in West Vail	○	○	○	○	○
Temporarily shutting off the power grid during extreme fire risk days to avoid new wildfire ignitions	○	○	○	○	○
Removing vegetation along roadways for safer evacuation	○	○	○	○	○
Building a new road(s) to provide an emergency evacuation route	○	○	○	○	○

Section 5: In this section, we ask about your notions, expectations, and risk perceptions related to wildfire.

5.1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
With proper technology, we can control most wildfires.	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten human life.	○	○	○	○	○
We should put out wildfires that threaten homes.	○	○	○	○	○
During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving forests.	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires are a natural part of a healthy forest/ecosystem.	○	○	○	○	○
I live here for the trees and will not remove any of them to reduce wildfire risk.	○	○	○	○	○
Managing the wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not mine.	○	○	○	○	○
Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective.	○	○	○	○	○
My property is at risk of wildfire.	○	○	○	○	○
My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is not effective because of the heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties.	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep a wildfire from spreading.	○	○	○	○	○
Local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes.	○	○	○	○	○
Firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect my home.	○	○	○	○	○
Wildfires threaten my community water supply.	○	○	○	○	○
I plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires.	○	○	○	○	○
Development in fire-prone areas of West Vail increases the wildfire risk to my West Vail property.	○	○	○	○	○

5.2. If there is a wildfire on your West Vail property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Slightly likely	Not at all likely	Not applicable
I would put the fire out.	○	○	○	○	○	○
The fire department would save my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have smoke damage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would have some physical damage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My home would be destroyed.	○	○	○	○	○	○
I would lose money due to the loss of business or income on my property.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My trees and landscape would burn.	○	○	○	○	○	○
My neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Direct flame would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Embers would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Nearby homes would ignite my home.	○	○	○	○	○	○

5.3. What do you think is the chance that a wildfire will be on your West Vail property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure | No chance

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

5.4. If there is a wildfire on your property **in the next 12 months**, what do you think is the chance that it will destroy or severely damage your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure | No chance

100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Section 6: In this section, we ask where you get information about wildfire, how useful the information is, how you receive information, and how you would like to receive information.

6.1. The following sources provide information about wildfire risk. If you have received information from one of these sources, how useful has it been? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Fill in this circle if you have **NOT** received information from this source
Vail Fire & Emergency Services	○	○	○	○	○	○
Community group (ex. homeowners association)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Local arborist/contractor	○	○	○	○	○	○
Eagle County Government	○	○	○	○	○	○
Firewise USA®	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ready, Set, Go! program	○	○	○	○	○	○
Colorado State Forest Service	○	○	○	○	○	○
USDA Forest Service (White River National Forest)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Media (newspaper, TV, radio, internet)	○	○	○	○	○	○

6.2. How do you currently receive information about wildfire risk reduction, and how would you prefer to receive information? Please answer **both** questions for each row. (*Fill in all circles that apply*)

	I receive information from this source	I would like to receive information from this source
Email/e-newsletter	○	○
Mailed newsletter	○	○
Community meetings	○	○
Conversations with local wildfire specialists	○	○
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor)	○	○
Internet (non-social media)	○	○
TV news	○	○
Newspaper	○	○
Radio	○	○

Section 7: In this section, we would like to know why you do or do not take action to reduce the risk of wildfire to your West Vail property.

7.1. Do any of the following **prevent you** from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your West Vail property (ex. cutting trees, changing roof/siding)? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

Personal resources	Financial cost ○	Time to do the work ○	Physical ability to do the work ○	None of these ○
Lack of specific information about…	The factors contributing to my property's wildfire risk ○	How to reduce wildfire risk on my property ○	Where to dispose of vegetation/slash ○	None of these ○
Personal perspectives	I do not want to change the way my property looks ○	I do not think taking action would reduce my property's wildfire risk ○	It's a low priority to me ○	None of these ○
Community	Lack of options for disposing vegetation/slash ○	Restrictions on the changes I can make to my property ○	Social pressure from neighbors ○	None of these ○

7.2. Would any of the following **encourage you** to take action to reduce the wildfire risk on your West Vail property? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

Resources	Cost-share or financial assistance ○	Help doing the work ○	Recommended contractors ○	None of these ○
Information	A report describing my property's wildfire risk factors ○	Videos showing how to reduce risk on a property in my area ○	One-on-one visit with wildfire risk experts on my property ○	None of these ○
Other	Feedback on the work I've done to reduce my property's risk ○	Recognition for taking action ○	Neighborhood group that organizes wildfire risk-reduction activities ○	None of these ○

Section 8: In this section, we ask about personal and household characteristics. Your name will never be connected to your answers in any way.

8.1. In general, do you view yourself as someone who is very willing to take risks or not at all willing to take risks? (*Fill in one circle*)

Very willing to take risks										Not at all willing to take risks
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

8.2. What is your age? (*Fill in the blank*)

__________ years old

8.3. Are you? (*Fill in one circle*)

○ Male

○ Female

○ Other

8.4. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? (*Fill in one circle*)

○ Less than high school

○ High school graduate

○ Some college or technical school

○ Technical or trade school

○ College graduate

○ Some graduate work

○ Advanced degree (M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

8.5. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Employed full time (including self-employed)
- ○ Employed part time (including self-employed)
- ○ Unemployed or do not work outside of the home
- ○ Retired

8.6. Which of the following categories describes your annual household income? (*Fill in one circle*)

- ○ Less than $15,000
- ○ $15,000 - $24,999
- ○ $25,000 – $34,999
- ○ $35,000 - $49,999
- ○ $50,000 - $74,999
- ○ $75,000 - $99,999
- ○ $100,000 - $149,999
- ○ $150,000 - $199,999
- ○ $200,000 or more

Thank you for your help. Please use the space below to write any additional comments. Refer to the cover letter included in your mailing for contact information if you would like to schedule an onsite visit with a wildfire professional to learn how you can reduce risk on your property.

Appendix C: Wildfire Research (WiRē) Household Survey Summary

Begins on next page.

Living with Wildfire in West Vail in 2022

Number of completed surveys: 155 total; 69 online and 86 paper
Number of postcards mailed for online study: 725
Number of surveys mailed for paper study: 680
n = number of observations
Response rate for homeowners (excluding renters from the online study): ~21% overall (151/725); ~9% for online and ~13% for mailed survey
Blue numbers are percent responses (might not total to 100% due to rounding)
Red ALL CAPS are variable names

Please note: We encourage use of this survey instrument for applied, research, and/or publication purposes but request to be notified before any such use at: info@wildfireresearchcenter.org

** This project was funded by USDA Forest Service, Washington Office Fire and Aviation Management. The household survey administration was paid for by Vail Fire and Emergency Services.*
**All data received and processed as of July 7, 2023*
**Document prepared July 10, 2023*

Section 1: In this first section of the survey, we ask about your home in West Vail. Please answer the following questions with respect to your ***West Vail home***.

When choosing a response, please fill in the circle completely. Correct: ● Incorrect:

OWNRENT_A (n=157)

1.1. Do you own or rent your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

35% Own: primary home

62% Own: secondary home

3% Rent: I do not own my West Vail home → V_RENTLENGTH (n=5)

How long is your lease? *(Fill in one circle)*

100% One year long or longer

0% Less than one year

1.2. In a typical year, what months do you spend any time at your West Vail home? (*Fill in all that apply*)

N=154	ALL_MONTHS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	NO_MONTHS
	All 12 months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	No months
	49%	86%	81%	85%	69%	58%	77%	86%	82%	82%	65%	66%	82%	5%

FULLTIME (n=152)

1.3. In what year did you move to your West Vail home? (*Fill in the blank*)

AVERAGE = 2007

YRBUILD (n=149)

1.4. In what year was your West Vail home originally built? (*Fill in the blank*)

AVERAGE = 1987

RISKAWAR (n=154)

1.5. How aware of wildfire risk were you when you bought or decided to rent your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

27% Very aware

53% Somewhat aware

16% Not aware

5% Don't remember

Section 2: In this section, we ask about your experience with, and preparation for, wildfire at your West Vail home.

FIRE (n=154)

2.1. What is the closest distance (as a crow flies) a wildfire has come to your West Vail property? (*Fill in one circle*)

1%	There has been a wildfire on my property
11%	Less than 2 miles away but not on my property
10%	2 to 10 miles away
43%	More than 10 miles away
36%	Not sure

2.2. Have you had any of the following wildfire experiences at your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes
EVACUATED (n=153)	I have evacuated from my West Vail home due to a wildfire or threat of a wildfire	99%	1%
SMOKEDAM (n=152)	My West Vail home has had smoke damage	99%	1%
FIREDAM (n=153)	My West Vail home has had wildfire damage	100%	0%
DESTROY (n=150)	My West Vail home was destroyed by a wildfire	100%	0%

2.3. Do you currently have an evacuation plan in the event a wildfire threatens your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes	Not applicable
EVACPPL (n=153)	For the people in my household	55%	45%	
EVACPETS (n=130)	For the pets in my household and on my property	51%	28%	21%

2.4. Below are additional questions about evacuation. *(Fill in one circle per row)*

		No	Yes
V_DISABILITY (n=149)	Does anyone in your West Vail home have a disability that would make evacuation difficult?	98%	2%
V_VEHICLE (n=148)	Do you have a vehicle you could use to evacuate in the event of a wildfire?	2%	98%

V_PEOPLE (n=141)

2.5. How many other people live in your West Vail home, not including yourself? (*Fill in the blank*)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	12
9%	40%	21%	14%	9%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%

V_LANGUAGE (n=68)

2.6. In which language do you prefer to receive wildfire evacuation information from Vail Fire & Emergency Services? (*Fill in the blank*)

99% English

1% English or Spanish

2.7. Have you completed any of the following actions to prepare for a wildfire **evacuation** and do you want more information about how to complete any of the actions? (*Fill in two circles per row, one for each question*)

	Completed action?		Want more information about the action?	
Identify how I will be notified about an evacuation	EVACACT1 (n=155)	21%	EVACINFO1 (n=155)	67%
Sign up for a wildfire evacuation notification system (Eagle County Alert System ECAlert.org)	EVACACT2 (n=155)	26%	EVACINFO2 (n=155)	60%
Sign up for Vail Community Connect (www.communityconnect.io/info/co-vail)	EVACACT2_WR 021 (n=155)	17%	EVACINFO2_WR 021 (n=155)	60%
Identify safe evacuation routes	EVACACT3 (n=155)	26%	EVACINFO3 (n=155)	59%
Identify a location that my household will evacuate to	EVACACT4 (n=155)	28%	EVACINFO4 (n=155)	52%
Identify what to take and what to leave behind during an evacuation	EVACACT5 (n=155)	34%	EVACINFO5 (n=155)	41%
Discuss evacuation with my neighbors	EVACACT6 (n=155)	20%	EVACINFO6 (n=155)	45%
Create a checklist for steps to take before evacuating	EVACACT7 (n=155)	15%	EVACINFO7 (n=155)	57%
Identify a place to stay during a long-term evacuation (i.e., more than a few days)	EVACACT8 (n=155)	48%	EVACINFO8 (n=155)	29%
Pack a "go" bag with important items you would need during an evacuation	EVACACT10 (n=155)	29%	EVACINFO10 (n=155)	43%

2.8. Please tell us about your experiences with your **homeowners insurance** for your West Vail home. (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes	DK
INSURE2 (n=139)	Has your current or a previous insurance company ever provided information on reducing the risk of wildfire?	62%	24%	14%
INSURE3 (n=146)	Did an insurance company ever refuse to provide or renew insurance because of the risk of wildfire?	88%	9%	3%
INSURE4 (n=115)	Do you pay a higher premium for your insurance due to wildfire risk?	33%	30%	37%
INSURE10 (n=117)	Do you receive a discount on your insurance premium because you have reduced wildfire risk on your property?	62%	7%	32%
INSURE12 (n=130)	Do you think your home is adequately insured against loss from a wildfire?	10%	75%	15%
INSURE13 (n=137)	Has your current insurance company ever required you to take action to reduce wildfire risk in order to continue coverage?	86%	7%	7%
INSURE15(n=138)	Has your current insurance company offered private firefighting services?	86%	4%	10%

Section 3: Whether you live in a single- or multi-family home, the characteristics of the building and property affect the chances of it being damaged or destroyed by wildfire. Please consider the entire building and property of your Vail home as you answer the questions in this section

V_HOMENUM (n=154)

3.1. Does your building have an address that is visible from the road (more than 4" tall and visible at night)? (*Fill in one circle*)

24%	No
69%	Yes
6%	Don't know

V_WOODSHAKE (n=153)

3.2. Does your building have a wood shake shingle roof? (*Fill in one circle*)

86%	No
9%	Yes
6%	Don't know

V_WOODSIDING (n=153)

3.3. Does your building have wood siding with large gaps or cedar siding on more than 25% of the building?

56%	No
37%	Yes
7%	Don't know

V_DECK (n=153)

3.4. Does your building have a deck? (*Fill in one circle*)

6%	No
94%	Yes →
0%	Don't know

V_DECKNONCOMBUST (n=141)

	No	Maybe	Yes
Is the deck built with metal, stone, or other ignition resistant material? *(Fill in one circle)*	67%	22%	11%

V_CHIMNEY (n=153)

3.5. Does your building have a chimney? (*Fill in one circle*)

14%	No		V_CHIMNEYSCREEN (n=130)	No	Yes	Don't know
85%	Yes	→	Does the chimney have a screen covering the top (i.e., spark arrestor)? *(Fill in one circle)*	6%	59%	35%
1%	Don't know					

V_ATTACH (n=150)

3.6. Does your building have a fence, window boxes, or other building attachments?

74%	No		V_ATTACHWOOD (n=37)	No	Yes	Don't know
25%	Yes	→	Are any of these building attachments constructed of wood? *(Fill in one circle)*	8%	92%	0%
1%	Don't know					

3.7. Does your building have leaves, needles, and other flammable materials...

		No	Yes	DK
V_DSPACE0_A (n=152)	...in the gutters and/or on the roof?	68%	20%	11%
V_DSPACE0_B (n=152)	...on top or beneath decks, steps, and overhangs?	67%	20%	13%

V_DSPACE5 (n=155)

3.8. Does your building have plants, leaves, needles, and other flammable material within 5 feet of building (not including decks, steps or overhangs)?

39% No
56% Yes
5% Don't know

V_DSPACE10 (n=155)

3.9. Does your building have trees or branches within 10 feet of the building?

19% No
80% Yes
1% Don't know

V_LONGGRASS30 (n=154)

3.10. Does your building have grass longer than 4 inches within 30 feet of the building?

55%	No
42%	Yes
3%	Don't know

3.11. Within 100 feet of the building, does your building have…

		No	Yes	DK
V_DSPACE100_A (n=155)	…trees where the crowns touch?	26%	46%	27%
V_DSPACE100_B (n=155)	…shrubs that make a continuous row?	75%	16%	10%
V_DSPACE100_C (n=154)	…flammable shrubs such as junipers beneath trees?	61%	18%	21%
V_DSPACE100_D (n=155)	…branches on the bottom 6 feet of large trees (taller than 20 feet)?	36%	48%	15%
V_DSPACE100_E (n=154)	…dead or dying branches on bottom 10 feet of all trees and bushes?	68%	18%	25%

Section 4: In this section, we ask about wildfire risk reduction activities.

TALKFIRE (n=154)

4.1. Have you ever talked about wildfire issues with a neighbor? (*Fill in one circle*)

61% No

39% Yes

4.2. Have you done any of the following wildfire-related activities? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		No	Yes
ACTIVITIES1 (n=151)	Removed large or dense vegetation near my West Vail home (ex. trees, shrubs, brush)	37%	63%
ACTIVITIES7 (n=149)	Regularly cleared my roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles	30%	70%
ACTIVITIES8 (n=151)	Regularly mowed and raked around my West Vail home	20%	80%
ACTIVITIES2 (n=150)	Made my West Vail home more fire resistant (ex. replaced roofing, siding, added hardscaping)	55%	45%
ACTIVITIES3 (n=151)	Helped neighbor(s) reduce vegetation on their properties	83%	17%
ACTIVITIES4 (n=149)	Helped reduce vegetation on community property (ex. HOA, subdivision)	77%	23%
ACTIVITIES5 (n=152)	Helped reduce vegetation on nearby public lands (ex. county, state, federal lands)	93%	7%
ACTIVITIES6 (n=152)	Participated in a community wildfire preparedness activity (ex. meeting, chipper day, etc.)	90%	10%
ACTIVITIES9 (n=152)	Met with a wildfire professional at your West Vail home to evaluate and discuss your property's wildfire risk	75%	25%

4.3. How much do you think each of the following factors contributes to the chances of a wildfire damaging your West Vail property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		A lot	Somewhat	Not at all
CONTRIB1 (n=154)	Vegetation on my property	22%	49%	29%
CONTRIB2 (n=154)	Physical characteristics of my house or other buildings (ex. roofing or siding) on my property	25%	43%	32%
CONTRIB3 (n=154)	Vegetation on my neighbors' properties	27%	49%	23%
CONTRIB4 (n=154)	Vegetation on nearby public or large undeveloped land	28%	47%	25%

NEIGHBORACT (n=149)

4.4. How many of your immediate neighbors do you think have taken action to reduce wildfire risk on their properties (ex. removing dense vegetation or switching to noncombustible siding) (*Fill in one circle*)

5%	All my neighbors have taken action
12%	Most of my neighbors have taken action
56%	Some of my neighbors have taken action
26%	None of my neighbors have taken action

4.5. How acceptable are the following approaches to **reducing wildfire risk** in West Vail to you? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Extremely acceptable	Very acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Slightly acceptable	Not at all acceptable
ACCEPT14 (n=151)	Removing trees and reducing other vegetation on HOA property surrounding communities to slow the spread of wildfire (ex. fuel breaks)	28%	34%	21%	11%	6%
ACCEPT1 (n=153)	Removing trees and reducing other vegetation (thinning/fuel breaks) on nearby public lands	33%	40%	19%	6%	3%
ACCEPT2 (n=152)	Burning piles of vegetation (slash piles) on nearby public lands	37%	33%	14%	10%	6%
ACCEPT3 (n=153)	Conducting a prescribed fire ignited by fire professionals on nearby public lands	31%	31%	22%	12%	5%
ACCEPT4 (n=151)	Managing a naturally ignited fire (lightning) on nearby public lands	41%	30%	18%	7%	3%
ACCEPT6 (n=150)	Growth policies or land use regulations that limit new development in fire-prone areas in West Vail	37%	37%	17%	5%	3%
ACCEPT7 (n=151)	Building codes that require fire resistant materials for structures located in fire-prone areas in West Vail	45%	34%	15%	6%	0%
ACCEPT8 (n=153)	Maintenance standards that require vegetation management (ex. removing or thinning trees and mowing grass) on lots located in fire-prone areas in West Vail	37%	33%	18%	9%	3%
ACCEPT12 (n=153)	Temporarily shutting off the power grid during extreme fire risk days to avoid new wildfire ignitions	22%	24%	31%	12%	11%
ACCEPT9 (n=153)	Removing vegetation along roadways for safer evacuation	42%	35%	17%	5%	1%
ACCEPT13 (n=150)	Building a new road(s) to provide an emergency evacuation route	23%	27%	25%	16%	8%

Section 5: In this section, we ask about your notions, expectations, and risk perceptions related to wildfire.

5.1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about wildfire? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
STATE2 (n=152)	With proper technology, we can control most wildfires.	5%	29%	36%	26%	4%
STATE3 (n=152)	We should put out wildfires that threaten human life.	61%	35%	4%	0%	0%
STATE4_a (n=152)	We should put out wildfires that threaten homes.	52%	41%	5%	2%	0%
STATE5 (n=151)	During a wildfire, saving homes should be a priority over saving forests.	32%	35%	25%	7%	2%
STATE6 (n=153)	Wildfires are a natural part of a healthy forest/ecosystem.	46%	41%	12%	1%	1%
STATE11 (n=152)	I live here for the trees and will not remove any of them to reduce wildfire risk.	1%	7%	24%	43%	24%
STATE13 (n=152)	Managing the wildfire danger is a government responsibility, not mine.	3%	5%	24%	53%	16%
STATE14 (n=152)	Homeowners' actions to reduce wildfire are not effective.	2%	5%	16%	57%	20%
STATE15 (n=152)	My property is at risk of wildfire.	13%	49%	21%	14%	3%
STATE17 (n=150)	My effort to reduce wildfire risk on my property is not effective because of the heavy vegetation on my neighbors' properties.	5%	15%	39%	34%	6%
STATE19 (n=151)	Local firefighters have sufficient resources to keep a wildfire from spreading.	3%	11%	44%	35%	7%
STATE20 (n=151)	Local firefighters have sufficient resources to protect threatened homes.	3%	17%	48%	24%	8%
STATE21 (n=152)	Firefighters should put their lives at risk to protect my home.	2%	7%	20%	41%	30%
STATE22 (n=152)	Wildfires threaten my community water supply.	11%	36%	41%	10%	1%
STATE24 (n=151)	I plan to move out of the area in the next 12 months because of wildfires.	0%	0%	3%	27%	70%
STATE25 (n=152)	Development in fire-prone areas of West Vail increases the wildfire risk to my Est Vail property.	7%	38%	39%	12%	5%

5.2. If there is a wildfire on your West Vail property, how likely do you think it is that the following would occur? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Slightly likely	Not at all likely	Not applicable
LACT1 (n=154)	I would put the fire out.	5%	4%	11%	29%	50%	1%
LACT2 (n=153)	The fire department would save my home.	8%	28%	42%	16%	6%	1%
LACT3 (n=153)	My home would have smoke damage.	24%	44%	25%	7%	1%	0%
LACT4 (n=153)	My home would have some physical damage.	14%	51%	22%	12%	1%	0%
LACT5 (n=153)	My home would be destroyed.	9%	20%	34%	32%	5%	1%
LACT6 (n=154)	I would lose money due to the loss of business or income on my property.	17%	18%	19%	10%	16%	19%
LACT7 (n=153)	My trees and landscape would burn.	27%	33%	25%	12%	2%	1%
LACT9 (n=153)	My neighbors' homes would be damaged or destroyed.	16%	32%	33%	16%	3%	1%
LACT12 (n=153)	Direct flame would ignite my home.	11%	25%	31%	25%	7%	1%
LACT13 (n=153)	Embers would ignite my home.	10%	24%	39%	22%	5%	0%
LACT14 (n=152)	Nearby homes would ignite my home.	11%	28%	36%	19%	7%	0%

CHANCES1 (n=142)

5.3. What do you think is the chance that a wildfire will be on your West Vail property **in the next 12 months**? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure										No chance
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	9%	4%	12%	21%	38%	10%

CHANCES2 (n=148)

5.4. If there is a wildfire on your property **in the next 12 months**, what do you think is the chance that it will destroy or severely damage your West Vail home? (*Fill in one circle*)

For sure										No chance
100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%	0%
6%	5%	11%	7%	7%	18%	4%	14%	14%	13%	1%

Section 6: In this section, we ask where you get information about wildfire, how useful the information is, how you receive information, and how you would like to receive information.

6.1. The following sources provide information about wildfire risk. If you have received information from one of these sources, how useful has it been? (*Fill in one circle per row*)

		Received info from source	Usefulness of information among respondents who received information from the source (sums to ~100%)	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful
Vail Fire & Emergency Services	SOURCEREC1 (n=149)	64%	SOURCEUSE1 (n=96)	28%	38%	29%	5%	0%
Community group (ex. homeowners association)	SOURCEREC2 (n=150)	25%	SOURCEUSE2 (n=38)	5%	29%	29%	26%	11%
Local arborist/contractor	SOURCEREC28 (n=151)	25%	SOURCEUSE28 (n=37)	16%	30%	35%	11%	8%
Eagle County Government	SOURCEREC38 (n=148)	32%	SOURCEUSE38 (n=48)	13%	27%	42%	17%	2%
Firewise USA®	SOURCEREC5 (n=146)	6%	SOURCEUSE5 (n=9)	0%	11%	56%	11%	22%
Ready, Set, Go! program	SOURCEREC24 (n=145)	9%	SOURCEUSE24 (n=13)	8%	8%	69%	0%	15%
Colorado State Forest Service	SOURCEREC6 (n=145)	13%	SOURCEUSE6 (n=19)	16%	32%	21%	16%	16%
USDA Forest Service (White River National Forest)	SOURCEREC14 (n=146)	14%	SOURCEUSE14 (n=21)	29%	24%	24%	10%	14%
Media (newspaper, TV, radio, internet)	SOURCEREC4 (n=147)	52%	SOURCEUSE4 (n=76)	7%	18%	47%	24%	4%

6.2. How do you currently receive information about wildfire risk reduction, and how would you prefer to receive information? Please answer **both** questions for each row. (*Fill in all circles that apply*)

	I receive information from this source		I would like to receive information from this source	
Email/e-newsletter	RECEIVEINFO1 (n=155)	28%	WANTINFO1 (n=155)	61%
Mailed newsletter	RECEIVEINFO2 (n=155)	26%	WANTINFO2 (n=155)	46%
Community meetings	RECEIVEINFO3 (n=155)	16%	WANTINFO3 (n=155)	32%
Conversations with local wildfire specialists	RECEIVEINFO4 (n=155)	13%	WANTINFO4 (n=155)	43%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor)	RECEIVEINFO5 (n=155)	11%	WANTINFO5 (n=155)	19%
Internet (non-social media)	RECEIVEINFO6 (n=155)	17%	WANTINFO6 (n=155)	28%
TV news	RECEIVEINFO7 (n=155)	23%	WANTINFO7 (n=155)	17%
Newspaper	RECEIVEINFO8 (n=155)	28%	WANTINFO8 (n=155)	25%
Radio	RECEIVEINFO9 (n=155)	19%	WANTINFO9 (n=155)	19%

Section 7: In this section, we would like to know why you do or do not take action to reduce the risk of wildfire to your West Vail property.

7.1. Do any of the following **prevent you** from taking action to reduce the wildfire risk on your West Vail property (ex. cutting trees, changing roof/siding?)
(*Fill in all circles that apply for each row*)

	FACTOR1 (n=149)	FACTOR2 (n=149)	FACTOR3_a (n=149)	FACTORNO1 (n=149)
Personal resources	Financial cost	Time to do the work	Physical ability to do the work	None of these
	36%	31%	19%	47%
	FACTOR11 (n=148)	FACTOR4 (n=148)	FACTOR12 (n=148)	FACTORNO2 (n=148)
Lack of specific information about…	The factors contributing to my property's wildfire risk	How to reduce wildfire risk on my property	Where to dispose of vegetation/slash	None of these
	30%	34%	20%	47%
	FACTOR6 (n=147)	FACTOR5_a (n=147)	FACTOR13 (n=147)	FACTORNO3 (n=147)
Personal perspectives	I do not want to change the way my property looks	I do not think taking action would reduce my property's wildfire risk	It's a low priority to me	None of these
	14%	20%	12%	60%
	FACTOR14 (n=140)	FACTOR9_a (n=140)	FACTOR15 (n=140)	FACTORNO4 (n=140)
Community	Lack of options for disposing vegetation/slash	Restrictions on the changes I can make to my property	Social pressure from neighbors	None of these
	12%	18%	6%	69%

7.2. Would any of the following **encourage** you to take action to reduce the wildfire risk on you West Vail property? (*Fill in all that apply for each row*)

	INCENTV1 (n=148)	INCENTV3 (n=148)	INCENTV4 (n=148)	INCENTVNO1 (n=148)
Resources	Cost-share or financial assistance	Help doing the work	Recommended contractors	None of these
	53%	49%	40%	25%
	INCENTV6 (n=146)	INCENTV7 (n=146)	INCENTV8 (n=146)	INCENTVNO2 (n=146)
Information	A report describing my property's wildfire risk factors	Videos showing how to reduce risk on a property in my area	One-on-one visit with wildfire risk experts on my property	None of these
	73%	34%	53%	16%
	INCENTV9 (n=134)	INCENTV10 (n=134)	INCENTV11 (n=134)	INCENTVNO3 (n=134)
Other	Feedback on the work I've done to reduce my property's risk	Recognition for taking action	Neighborhood group that organizes wildfire risk-reduction activities	None of these
	38%	8%	29%	41%

Section 8: In this section, we ask about personal and household characteristics. Your name will never be connected to your answers in any way.

RISKTAKE1 (n=145)

8.1. In general, do you view yourself as someone who is not at all willing to take risks or very willing to take risks? (*Fill in one circle*)

Very willing to take risks										Not at all willing to take risks
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
2%	3%	8%	14%	12%	29%	8%	13%	8%	0%	3%

AGE (n=146)

8.2. What is your age? (*Fill in the blank*)

MEAN AGE: 60 years old

GENDER (n=148)

8.3. Are you? (*Fill in one circle*)

60% Male

40% Female

0% Other

EDUC (n=150)

8.4. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? (*Fill in one circle*)

0% Less than high school

1% High school graduate

5% Some college or technical school

2% Technical or trade school

37% College graduate

13% Some graduate work

42% Advanced degree (M.D., M.A., M.S., Ph.D., etc.)

EMPLOY (n=148)

8.5. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? (*Fill in one circle*)

52% Employed full time (including self-employed)

9% Employed part time (including self-employed)

2% Unemployed or do not work outside of the home

36% Retired

INCOME (n=127)

8.6. Which of the following categories describes your annual household income? (*Fill in one circle*)

0% Less than $15,000

1% $15,000 - $24,999

2% $25,000 – $34,999

0% $35,000 - $49,999

7% $50,000 - $74,999

8% $75,000 - $99,999

14% $100,000 - $149,999

12% $150,000 - $199,999

56% $200,000 or more

Thank you for your help. Please use the space below to write any additional comments. Refer to the cover letter included in your mailing for contact information if you would like to schedule an onsite visit with a wildfire professional to learn how you can reduce risk on your property.

To learn more about RMRS publications or search our online titles:

www.fs.usda.gov/research/rmrs/products/publications

www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch